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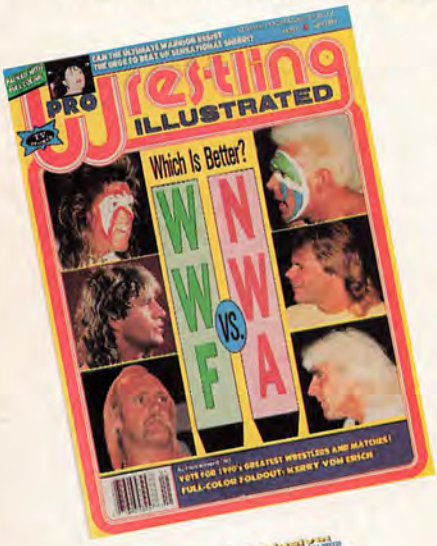
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INSIDE Wrestling

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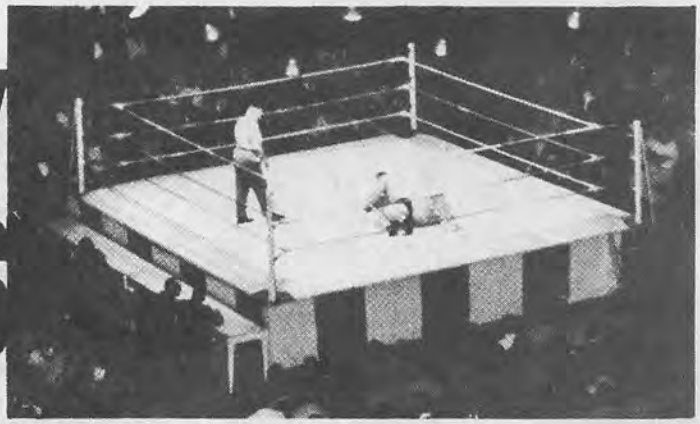
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SINCERELY YOURS



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BACKING THE UNDERTAKER

Ahhh, The Undertaker! What a man, what a mystery! I love this guy, and I think that he's the best thing to happen to wrestling in years. Paul Bearer is cool, too, and he really knows how to manage Undertaker. The two are so alike that they must have been destined to find each other!

Personally, I don't think Undertaker will ever actually kill someone, but by locking The Ultimate Warrior in a casket and doing other frightening things, he's gained a psychological advantage over his opponents. Keep up the good work, Undertaker!

EDWARD ORTON
Manchester, MA

WAS FUNK JUNKED?

Congratulations on Bob Smith's article about the Terry Funk/Jerry Lawler situation in your July '91 issue ("Uncovered! The USWA's Plot To Eliminate Terry Funk!"). As long as I've been watching wrestling, Lawler has gotten away with a few things, probably because he has friends in high places.

Anyone who follows the sport knows that at this point in their respective careers, Funk is a far better wrestler than Lawler. Even the pictures in your magazine showed how bloody and beaten Lawler was. There's no way he could have overcome Funk if he didn't have help!



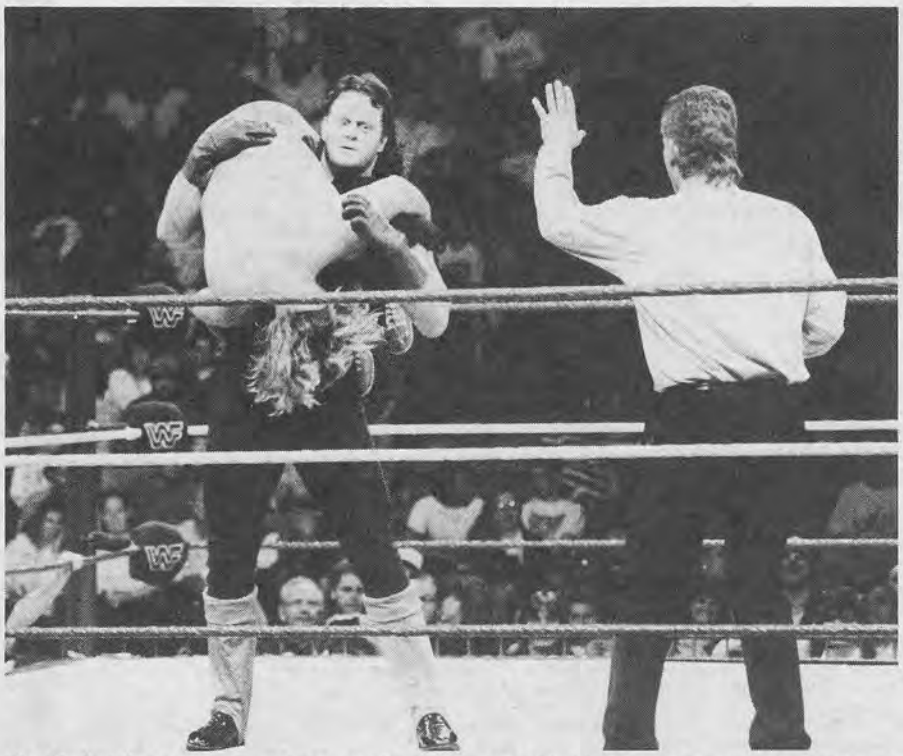
Terry Funk throttles Jerry Lawler with a television cable. Is Funk whining because of a recent loss to Lawler? Readers are split in their opinions.

Smith did his job in uncovering a terrible truth. I only hope someone can do something to make things right.

GLENN SHERMAN
San Antonio, TX

Yeah, right, the whole USWA is out to get Terry Funk and that's why he lost his title to Jerry Lawler. If you believe that, you might as well know that I'm the Prince of Bolivia.

Why can't Funk take his loss like a man? Losing to "The King" is nothing to be ashamed of. In his 21st year as a pro, Lawler is still a fine wrestler. If Funk really thinks he got screwed over, he should just be quiet and start cam-



The Undertaker prepares to bury another opponent with his tombstone piledriver. Edward Orton is one fan who supports Undertaker's grisly tactics.

paigning for a rematch. What's the point of bringing it to the courts? That's not what wrestling is all about.

If you ask me, Terry's a big crybaby who is looking to get his title back without having to earn it. Sorry, Terry, some things you have to work for.

MORGAN LATRENDER
Houston

STEINER SENTIMENTS

It was a pleasure to read Bob Smith's interview with Rick and Scott Steiner ("Hotseat," July 1991). Many champions, in any sport, have a hard time maintaining a solid focus and outlook. The Steiners, though, sure seem to have their heads screwed on straight.



Rick and Scott Steiner have the right attitude for success, writes Marlin Alderman.

The two brothers have a perfect blend of confidence and humility. They know that they're a great team, but they don't underestimate the talent of their opposition. That's the type of attitude that keeps a champion on top. And the Steiners are going to be champions for a long time!

MARLIN ALDERMAN
Winnemucca, NV

SLAMMING THE SARGE

Reading Dave Rosenbaum's article about Hulk Hogan in your July '91 issue ("Burning Mad! Beating Slaughter For The Title Was Not Enough") got me mad at Sgt. Slaughter all over again! How can he do the things he does? Doesn't he have any respect for America, the country he once loved?

I think it's time Slaughter takes a good look in the mirror and decides what he's going to do with his life. If he doesn't get out of wrestling soon, somebody's really going to hurt him. And it will serve him right!

VERNON HETZMIRE
Springfield, MA

If I were Hulk Hogan, I wouldn't be satisfied with pinning Sgt. Slaughter, either. Hulk knew all along he could pin that slime. Slaughter was lucky to win the title in the first place.

Now that Slaughter has taken his own terrible deeds even further by throwing fire in Hogan's face, he deserves to be punished in a big way. I hope Hogan gets more shots at Slaughter real soon. In fact, I hope he knocks Slaughter out of wrestling forever!

JOHN FAULHABER
Atlantic Beach, NY

WHO'S THE REAL SNAKE?

Earthquake has reached the lowest depths of humanity. What Earthquake did to Jake Roberts' pet boa constrictor, Damian, shows the kind of low-level being he is. The cowardice he showed by taking his anger out on Damian while Roberts was tied up in the ropes is absolutely reprehensible.

Roberts will get his revenge on Earthquake, and he will take it further than Hulk Hogan ever did. I, for one, will not rest until Earthquake gets the punishment he deserves.

JOHN HARDIN
Springfield, VA



Hulk Hogan warns Sgt. Slaughter about the thrashing he is about to receive. Slaughter is vilified by readers Vernon Hetzmire and John Faulhaber.

ONE ON ONE FUN

I loved the telephone conversation between Ric Flair and Barry Windham in your July '91 issue ("One On One"), but I have to say that, unlike

(Continued on page 52)

SAKS' NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

As wrestling journalists, we often tend to overemphasize what is wrong with the sport. I'm as guilty of that as anyone. Once in a while, though, it's refreshing to ease up a little and remind oneself that wrestling is still the greatest sport in the world. Here are some of the reasons why:

--There are no timeouts. A basketball player makes a steal and jams on a breakaway, bringing the hometown crowd alive. All the opposing coach has to do to break the momentum is call time. In wrestling, you can get out of the ring for a 10-count, but if you don't get back in time, you lose, and on top of that, there really isn't anything from stopping your opponent from going out after you.

--The sport always changes. The DH rule was a major baseball innovation, but that rule change occurred nearly 20 years ago and nothing has changed in the sport since. You get minor rule changes in other sports (the three-point play in basketball, the five-yard chucking limit in football), but wrestling gives us Survivor Series and Triple Dome of Terror matches and Ringmaster Rumble battle royals.

--There is no such thing as a minor league. There are organizations that are smaller than others, there are organizations that don't get the TV coverage and play to smaller live crowds. But the talent rosters of the small groups, while not as deep, are every bit as good as the talent rosters of the main groups. The champion of the IWCCW could wrestle for the Intercontinental belt, but they wouldn't dare allow the champion of the World League of Professional Football to play the Giants.

--Most of all, it allows two men (or women) to test each other's fighting skills, fighting wills, courage, stamina, and determination without anyone telling them that it is wrong to do so. What could be better?

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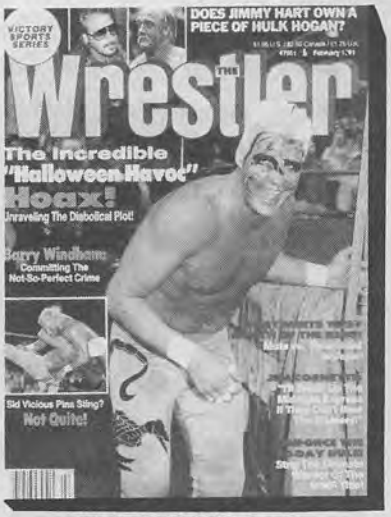


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NAMES MAKI

FOR MORE THAN two decades, manager ***Bobby "The Brain" Heenan*** has patrolled ringside, justly earning his status as one of the most hated managers in the sport's history. It appears now that the man fans have dubbed the "Weasel" has retired from managing for good!

This shocking revelation came about during a WWF television taping on May 28 at the Convention Center in Tucson, Arizona. During a "Funeral Parlor" segment with ***Paul Bearer***, Heenan announced that he was assigning the contract of Intercontinental champion ***Curt Hennig*** to WWF newcomer ***John Tolos***, who now insists on being known as ***The Coach***.

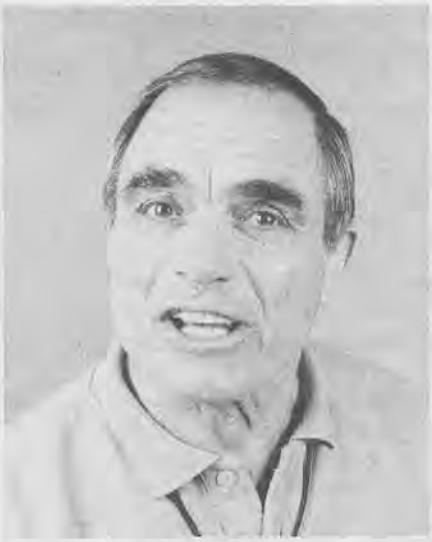


BOBBY HEENAN

Heenan claims he's getting out of managing because he wants to devote more time to his broadcasting duties, but many WWF insiders insist there's another reason why Heenan is leaving ringside.

"Bobby's been getting pounded pretty badly lately," said a WWF source. "In the last four months alone, he was brutalized by both ***Big Bossman*** and ***Kerry Von Erich***. Bobby's getting older now, and he just can't absorb the pain anymore. Being the coward he is, he decided it's safer calling wrestlers names from the broadcast booth than it is from ringside. But the news isn't as good as it might seem, because Tolos is every bit as evil as Heenan is."

Hennig isn't the only wrestler whom The Coach has in his stable. Former AWA World tag team champions ***Mike Enos*** and ***Wayne Bloom*** are also being managed by Tolos in the WWF. ***Cactus Jack***, a Tolos protege in the



JOHN TOLOS

UWF, claims that Hennig, Enos, and Bloom couldn't have made a better choice.

"Tolos has one of the most brilliant minds I've never known" said the wild Jack, who has never been accused of having much gray matter. "He made me and ***Bob Orton*** a great tag team, and I'm sure he can do the same thing for Enos and Bloom. And there's no way Hennig's gonna lose his belt now—not with the 'Maniac' watching his back!"

Another wrestler with concerns over his title is WCW World champion ***Ric Flair***. After defeating ***Tatsumi Fujinami*** at Super Brawl '91 on May 19 in St. Petersburg, Florida, U.S. champion ***Lex Luger*** announced that he was demanding title matches against Flair.

"I've waited long enough," said Luger, who has received few World title opportunities during the past year. "I waited my turn when ***Sting*** wanted his shots, and I was happy for him when he won the belt. I waited while Fujinami got his chances, and I stood by silently as ***El Gigante*** and even ***Bobby Eaton*** were granted matches. Well, it's *my* time now. I've beaten ***Stan Hansen***, ***Dan Spivey***, ***Nikita Koloff***, and everybody WCW has put in front of me. Who else do I have to beat to prove I'm world championship material?"

Flair, however, continues to insist that Luger isn't deserving of title matches.

"That guy had dozens of shots at me in 1989 and 1990, and he came



RIC FLAIR

N' NEWS

Bill Apter reporting...

up short every time," said Flair arrogantly. "Personally, I think he's crazy to even *think* he can beat me. In fact, I don't even consider Luger a threat anymore. I'm more worried about Eaton, who's just a little bit hungrier than Luger seems to be."

Flair seemed confident he wouldn't have to face Luger again, but WCW officials were on the verge of sanctioning a bout between "Nature Boy" and the "Total Package" during The Great American Bash tour. The Flair-Luger war was the 1990 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* "Feud of the Year," and I'm sure the simmering hatred between these superstars will make their rematches even more exciting!

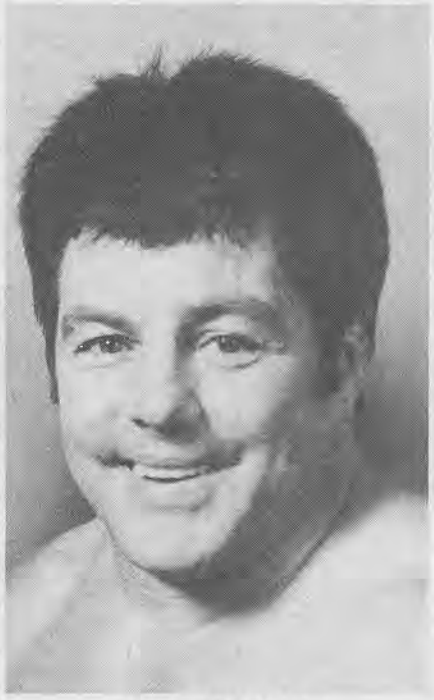
I can't believe the shocking changes in many top stars. ***Sid Vicious*** has



SID VICIOUS

entered the WWF, but now he wants to be called ***Sid Justice***—and he's become a fan favorite! The 6'8" giant ran ***The Mountie*** and ***Earthquake*** from the ring during two consecutive cards in May. And as I've speculated for months now, ***Tugboat*** has turned bad. He's changed his name to ***Typhoon***, and he's teaming with Earthquake. Also, look for ***Tito Santana's*** return to the WWF as ***The Matador*** in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to WCW commentator ***Jim Ross*** for his great new radio show. *Wrestling With Jim Ross* can be heard on WSB-AM radio in Atlanta every Sunday at 9 p.m. This station has a lot of carry, so try tuning it in, whichever part of the country you're in . . . The USWA Texas title, last held by ***Eric Embry***, was held up following his match against ***Bill Dundee*** on



BILL DUNDEE

May 24 in Dallas. The flamboyant rulebreaker wants a rematch in a steel cage, and Dundee seems willing to oblige . . . Sadistic ICW champion ***Tony Atlas*** has been downright frightening lately. He claims he's going to end ***Vic Steamboat's*** career . . . Pacific Northwest tag team champions ***The Bruise Brothers*** have issued challenges to all the other tag team champs in the sport. "If you think you're the best, come to Portland and beat *us*," said ***Ron Harris***, who teams with his brother, ***Don***.

The August 3 Tri-State Wrestling Alliance card in Philadelphia will feature one of my favorite types of matches: An oldtimers' battle royal, featuring ***Bulldog Brower***, ***Dominic DeNucci***, ***Killer Kowalski***, and many other legends. Speaking of Tri-State, the "Ringmaster Rumble" battle royal, won by ***Pit Bull Spike*** on May 18, was the wildest match I've ever seen. Think of it: A battle royal in which deadly foreign objects were placed in the ring *before* the opening bell to be legally used as weapons. Included among the items were a hockey stick, an aluminum baseball bat, and a rolling pin! I applaud Tri-State President ***Joel Goodhart*** for his ingenuity, but this is a little too brutal for my taste!

Charlie Norris regained the PWA title from ***The Golden Idol*** on May



CHARLIE NORRIS

11 in Fridley, Minnesota . . . Muscular youngsters ***Chris Walker*** and ***Fabian*** downed ***The Pretty Young Things*** to win the Georgia All-Star tag belts on May 20 in Columbus.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

ON THE ROAD
with CRAIG PETERS

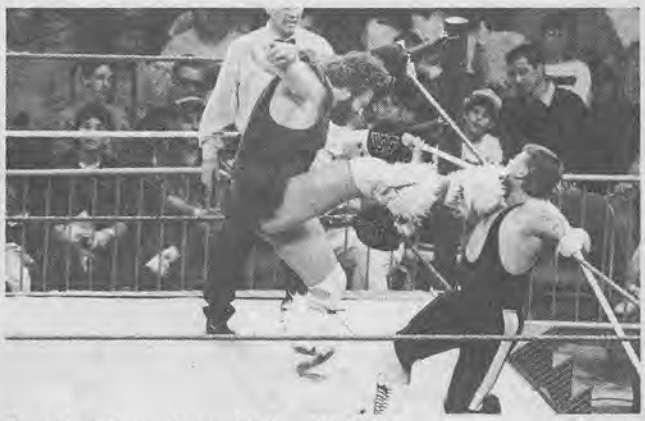
BEFORE I GET too deep into this column, I want to go on record as stating that I prefer a hard-fought *wrestling* match far more than a display of two musclemen trying to outshove, outkick, and outpunch each other.

Not that the heavily muscled folk don't have their place in this sport (and let's face it: they're photogenic as all get out), but I'll take skill without muscles over muscles without skill any day of the week and twice on Sundays.

That established, I'm going to go ahead and say something that may seem odd in light of such comments:

I'm very surprised that The Berzerker hasn't made a bigger splash in the WWF.

At 6'6" and 316 beefy pounds, Berzerker is a formidable presence in any ring, even one in which The Ultimate Warrior (two inches shorter and 36 pounds lighter) or Hulk Hogan (two inches taller, but 24 pounds lighter) is present.



Berzerker demonstrates his formidable leg . . .

And in a federation like the WWF, which places a premium on muscles without skill, Berzerker seems like a man dressed for success.

Oddly, though, he's been on a fast track to nowhere.

"I think the reason for that," said one WWF insider, "is because Berzerker, and I don't mean to be flip about this, has nowhere to go! No other wrestlers want to form any alliances with him, because he has such an unpredictable demeanor. He doesn't seem to want to go after any titles, so he flounders around in preliminary matches. He just seems happy to go out there, maul whatever low-level competition he's put up against, and go home."

There's one other factor that the insider left out: Mr. Fuji.

You've probably noticed that Fuji is the proverbial kiss of death for a promising wrestler or team. He took Demolition and drove them into the ground. He latched on to The Orient Express and turned them from the brightest WWF prospects of the past few years to just another run-of-the-mill duo. And he's taken Berzerker, a man with a lot of potential (a lot of *WWF* potential, that is), and done absolutely nothing with him.

Imagine Berzerker in the hands of someone like, say, Jimmy Hart. The "Mouth Of The South" would instill in the man a genuine killer instinct, a lust for destruction, then maneuver him in line for shots at any title he desired.

"That's really the job of a manager," said legendary manager Capt. Lou Albano, "to take raw talent, refine it, reshape it, and make the best of it. In my day, if you remember, I did that by getting into the heads of the men I managed and imagining myself as them. Then I asked myself: What do I want and how do I go about getting it? Then I'd go out and get it for them."

"Getting into the heads" indeed! When Albano managed The Moondogs, he accompanied them to the ring dressed as a Moondog. When he managed Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito, Albano's portly body was emblazoned with emblems of the rising sun. But the Captain's point is well taken: If a manager wants to have success with his men, he ought to empathize with those men. He ought to get to know them as thoroughly as possible and make their concerns his concerns.



. . . and upper-body power against a WWF prelim foe.

Fuji, for all his snarling and sneering, doesn't seem to care very much about the men he manages.

And that means a man like Berzerker, tailor-made for the upper ranks of the WWF, is left to languish in the preliminaries.

Frankly, I couldn't care less. I don't enjoy watching Berzerker wrestle. I don't like his style, I don't like his attitude, and I don't like Fuji. But it nevertheless amazes me: Fuji could go so far with this man, but he refuses to take even the most rudimentary steps toward success. For the life of me, I can't understand why.

More than that, I can't understand why a guy like Berzerker would put up with it. □

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

FOR EVERY ACTION, there's an equal and opposite reaction. That's physics, and most of you don't want to hear about physics, especially now that school is out.

Besides, the rule is wrong. For every action, there's a *gut reaction* and then, if you take the time to investigate, an *informed reaction.* Finally, gut and fact combine to form a final opinion.

Which is where this column comes in. It's a look at a series of reactions I had to recent events in wrestling.

Notice, by the way, that the gut reaction and the final opinion are often very similar. After all, we can't let the facts stand in the way of how we really feel!

* * *

NEWS ITEM: The 1992 Royal Rumble will be held at Knickerbocker Arena in Albany, New York.

GUT REACTION: Why not the Bronx?

INFORMED REACTION: The largest crowd for a sporting event at the year-old Knickerbocker Arena was for a wrestling card featuring Hulk Hogan in the main event. The crowd of over 16,000 eclipsed the crowd for an NBA exhibition game and countless rounds of bad Division I college basketball.

Albany, which has yet to find its niche in the sports world, might be, above all else, a wrestling town. Also, the WWF should be credited for spreading the wealth: Why should New York and Los Angeles get all the great cards? The Royal Rumble is one of the WWF's most exciting events, and I'm sure the people of Albany will

(Continued on page 56)

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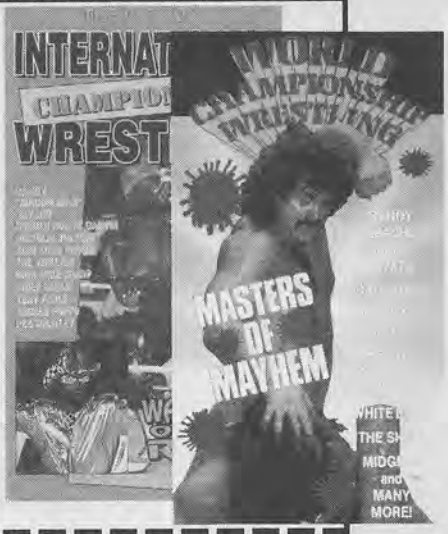
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THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]



According to Eddie Ellner, Sid Vicious the wrestler has a great deal in common with Sid Vicious, the late lead singer of the now-defunct punk-rock band, The Sex Pistols.

THE BRIGHTER OF you readers might have noticed that since he pulverized his first opponent in WCW two years ago, Sid Vicious has appeared more and more often in these pages. I like Sid, though I must admit it isn't only his ferocious wrestling style, or his coming of age as the world's most intimidating grappler, that I admire.

The truth is that his name invokes memories of my own coming of age.

Though I never saw The Sex Pistols, or their lead vocalist, Sid Vicious, in concert, their short tenure in the late-1970s as society-bashing punk rock rulebreakers left a lasting impression on me and thousands of other teens looking to establish our identities.

Pistols music went beyond the revolutionary echoes of garden variety rock 'n' roll. Their impulses were mined from a deep well of anarchism. Their tactics were to disgust and provoke, not simply anger. They spit at their audience, vomited on stage, and left performances in mid-song. Their music barely achieved melody, yet still managed to resonate passion and fury. They formed a coalition of dysfunctionals (and wannabe dysfunctionals) who started the punk rock movement here in America, which thrives in various incarnations to this day.

(The handful of you rock 'n' roll genealogists out there will protest the chronology. To you I say: Shut the 'ell up; remember this is a wrestling magazine and the quicker I make my point and return to the subject matter, the better for us all.)

Sid Vicious, the singer, had a terrifying contempt for all institutions, including his own life, which he destroyed quickly with drugs and alcohol. It is obvious that Sid Vicious, the wrestler, keeps himself in shape, but he brings the same brand of irreverence and imagination to the crunching of bones as his namesake did to the shouting of lyrics. The sadistic wit they share is rarely witnessed today in either profession.

While I'm a reluctant supporter of the singer Vicious (I don't agree it's better to burn out than to fade away), of the wrestler Vicious I am wild. Or was—because the effort he gave at Super Brawl against El Gigante was more reminiscent of the singer who failed to live up to his potential than of the wrestler with the potential as vast as the Outback.

Sid Vicious, wrestler, is the type of grappler who makes life insurance companies nervous. A strong man with a dark intellect

(Continued on page 58)

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ON ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



Scotty the Body has the type of physique that makes most women swoon, but Liz Hunter reports that she's moved beyond such reactions to the men about which she writes.

IT'S RAINING MEN, and for the first time in my career I want an umbrella. As recently as two or three years ago, I would have obsessed over the hunk quotient on display at Super Brawl's WCW World tag team title match. Lex Luger. Sting. Steiner & Steiner. Drool City, right?

Although a good body matters as much now as it ever did, four perfect physiques does not a great match make. As it transpired, the Four God Bods put on a wrestling clinic that mat analysts will be talking about into the next century. Which is all that matters.

Yet, from the seat next to me, a fellow journalist, a man who I consider a friend and who claims to respect my work, leaned over and said, "Hope all this beefcake doesn't raise your cholesterol, Lizzie."

Very funny, Ellner.

The nonsense continued following a recent editorial meeting during which I commented on how ridiculous the feud in the Georgia All-Star area between Scotty the Body and fan favorite Fabian was, since the two were spilling blood over who had a better body, not over who was a more talented wrestler. It turns out I was misquoted by my own publication!

"Every time Scotty and Fabian get in the ring together, I swoon," *PWI Weekly* reported me saying. I meant it sarcastically, and that was evident to everyone on hand at the meeting. But printed out of context, it conveys (and confirms) to readers the image of flighty Liz Hunter, man-hunting journalist.

It's not like that anymore. Devoted readers know it hasn't been like that for many years. We grow older, more seasoned, and we mature. Even "Total Package" Lex Luger betrayed an adult streak when I spoke to him after Super Brawl and expressed my concerns.

"I don't know if you remember, Liz," he said, "the time I insisted you go out with me if you wanted an interview."

Remember? Luger's rookie demand almost forced me to turn in my typewriter! The most shameful memory, though, is how much I really wanted to go out on that date. In the end we were both glad that I didn't. But let him continue.

"You're not going to believe this," he said, "but I think of that once in a while. I was really tough on you and I didn't even realize it. When you're as young as I was back then, you think you can command the world. The thing a lot of people don't understand

(Continued on page 60)

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2) Arnold Skaaland 4) Elizabeth

Which man was never a member of Paul Ellering's Legion of Doom?
1) Jake Roberts 3) King Kong Bundy
2) Hawk 4) Buzz Sawyer

For which NFL team did Brian Pillman compete?
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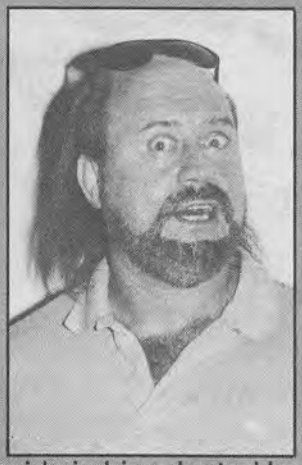
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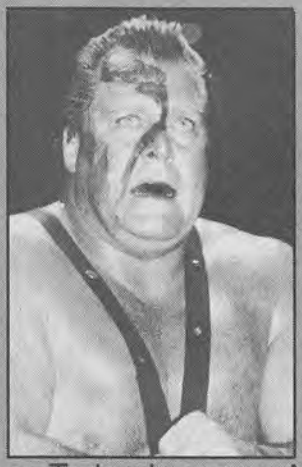
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



BUGSY McGRAW

The wacky grappler who brought "sick power" to the WWF in the early-'70s—and reformed in the '80s—wants his fans to know that he has officially retired from the mat sport. Today, the long-time Florida favorite is working as a medical aide in his adopted hometown of Tampa. "In the old days, I tried to hurt people," said Bugsy with remorse. "Now I try to help them as much as I can. I like it much better this way."



AX

When Mr. Fuji again took over the managerial reigns of three-time former WWF World tag team champions Demolition in 1990, Ax left the federation. "We had more success without Fuji, so I bolted," claimed the war-painted mauler. Today, known as Axis the Demolisher, he instructs youngsters at the Georgia Academy of Demolition and Mayhem, a new wrestling school. "I teach kids to get tough—and *stay* tough," said the veteran brawler.



PETE SANCHEZ

Few WWF stars were as popular as "Pistol" Pete as he soared over East Coast rings in the '60s and '70s. Today, Sanchez resides with his family in Brooklyn, New York. His current vocation is serving as a circulation and distribution agent for the *New York Times,* one of America's top daily newspapers. "I'm proud of my wrestling career, because I never became a rulebreaker," said Sanchez, who remains in fighting trim.



MITCH SNOW

This popular scientific star made a national splash in the AWA from 1986 to 1988, then impressed fans in the ACW and other independent federations. "Jammin' " Mitch has now found stardom, but in another arena. Snow hosts a popular weekly radio program on WGH in Newport News, Virginia. "I miss wrestling, but I love this life almost as much," said the personable youngster. "If you're ever in Virginia, give me a listen!"

INSIDE WRESTLING

182

CAPSULE PROFILE

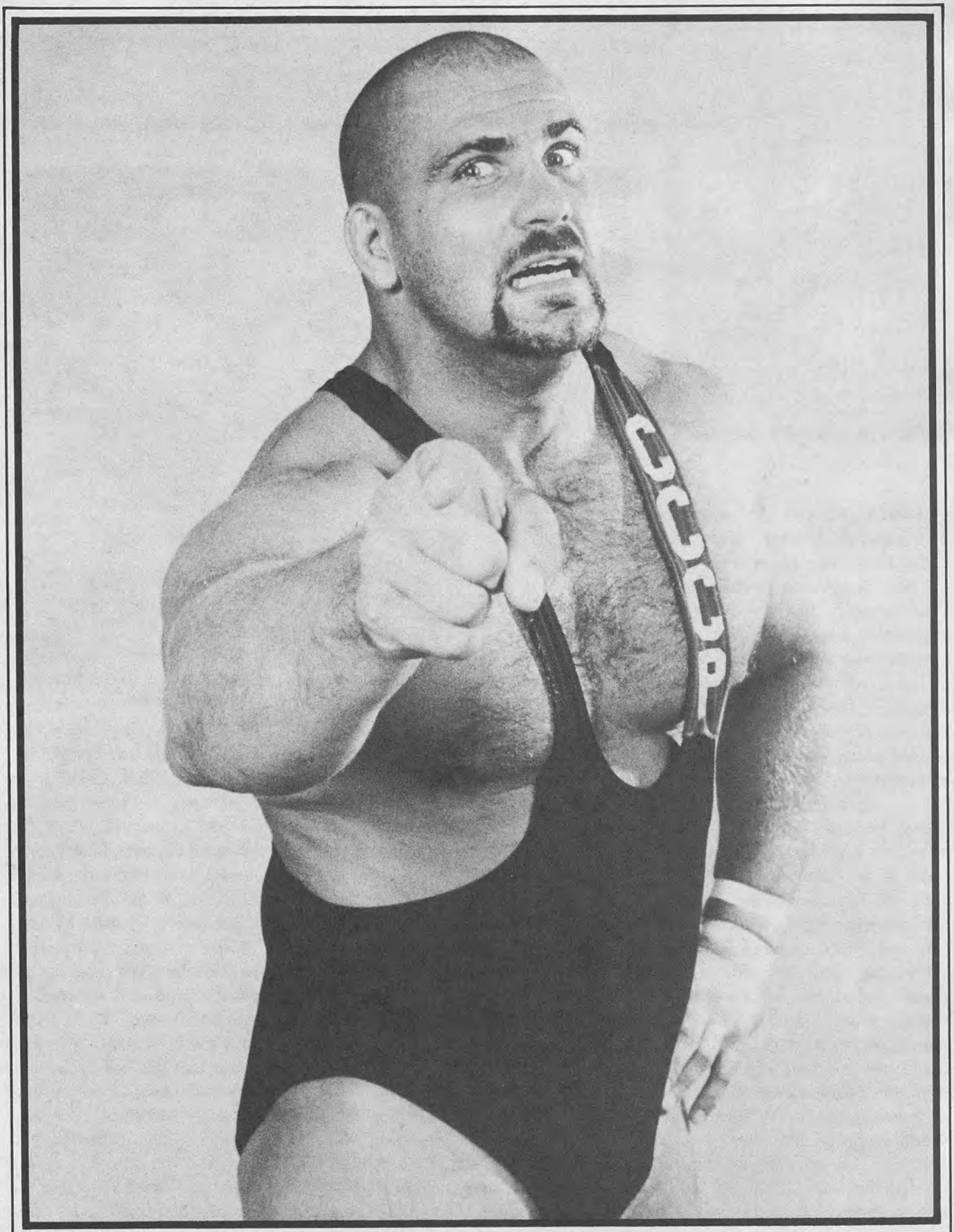
NIKITA KOLOFF



Nikita Koloff whips U.S. champion Lex Luger across the ring. Koloff returned to WCW with hopes of taking Luger's U.S. belt, but his priorities have since changed.

NIKITA KOLOFF IS wrestling's fearsome "Russian Nightmare" *("You do not want to get in my way")* ... Was supposed to compete in the 1984 Olympics, but was denied the opportunity when the Soviet Union boycotted the Games ... The nephew of Ivan Koloff, Nikita was brought to America by Don Kernodle, who at the time was friendly with Ivan ... Won his first pro match in 15 seconds *("I established my reputation very quickly")* ... The Koloffs eventually turned against Kernodle and formed an alliance with Krusher Khrushchev *("Kernodle is an American")* ... Early in 1985, the Russians won the WCW six-man championship ... On March 18, Ivan and Nikita captured the WCW World tag team title from Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez in Fayetteville, North Carolina *("That was not much of a challenge")* ... As Khrushchev and Ivan defended the tag team title, Nikita entered into a series of bouts against WCW (then NWA) World champion Ric Flair *("I would have won, too, had Flair not cheated")* ... After Ivan and Khrushchev lost the belts to The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Ivan and Nikita regained them on October 13 in Charlotte, North Carolina ... One month later, lost the title back to the Rock 'n' Rolls in Greensboro, North Carolina ... Nikita began feuding with U.S. champion Magnum T.A. ... After Magnum was stripped of the belt, Nikita defeated him in a best-of-seven series, four matches to three, to win the title on August 17, 1986, in Charlotte *("There was no longer any doubt who the greater man was")* ... On September 28 in Atlanta, Nikita defeated Wahoo McDaniel to unify the National and U.S. titles ... Then Nikita's life changed: He befriended Magnum after T.A. was nearly killed in an auto accident *("I once had tremendous respect for Magnum")* ... In Magnum's honor, Nikita teamed with Dusty Rhodes and they won the Crockett Cup tag team tournament on April 11, 1987, in Baltimore ... Lost the U.S. title to Lex Luger at the Great American Bash in Greensboro on July 11 *("I knew Luger would someday pay for that!")* ... Won the TV title from Tully Blanchard on August 18 in Fayetteville ... Lost that belt to Mike Rotundo in Raleigh, North Carolina, on January 26, 1988 ... Spent much of the next two years away from the sport caring for his wife, Mandy, who was suffering from Hodgkin's disease *("Nothing I face in the ring prepared me for that time")* ... After Mandy's death, Nikita returned to the ring, competing in the AWA and on the independent circuit ... Returned to WCW for Wrestle War '91 on February 24 in Phoenix, Arizona, to present a brand-new U.S. title belt to the winner of the Lex Luger-Dan Spivey bout ... After Luger successfully defended the U.S. title, Nikita clobbered him with the belt *("The time for revenge had come!")* ... Feuded with Luger for several months before setting his sights on Sting *("I will wipe the paint off the face of that California beach boy and make him eat it!")* □

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NIKITA KOLOFF

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NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

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LONDON, ENGLAND
By Neil Symons



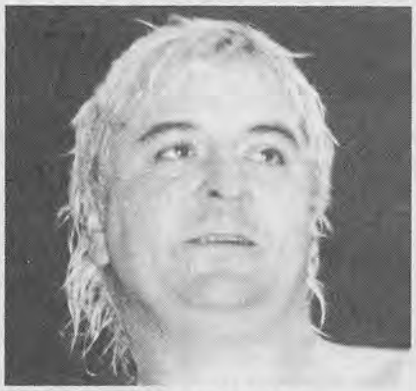
HULK HOGAN
vs.
SGT. SLAUGHTER



At the start of the match, Gen. Adnan interfered on Slaughter's behalf, but Hogan battled back. Later, Slaughter brought a chair into the ring and hit referee Dave Hebner with it. Then Adnan attempted to throw a fireball at Hogan, but he couldn't ignite one in time. When he finally did throw it, it hit Slaughter right in the face. Hogan promptly legdropped and pinned Slaughter.

OTHER BOUTS: Steve Lombardi defeated Steve Casey . . . Jim Neidhart beat The Warlord . . . Ted DiBiase defeated Kerry Von Erich by countout . . . Greg Valentine pinned Haku . . . The Rockers defeated The Orient Express . . . Jimmy Snuka pinned The Barbarian . . . Davey Boy Smith beat Berzerker . . . Earthquake defeated Jake Roberts by disqualification.

MEMPHIS, TN
By Mark Mitchell



ERIC EMBRY
vs.
DOUG GILBERT



After several minutes of hard action, referee Paul Neighbors was knocked out and Tojo Yamamoto hit Gilbert with his flagpole. When Gilbert chased after Yamamoto, Embry grabbed the pole, hit Gilbert with it, and pinned him. Afterward, Embry and Yamamoto double-teamed Gilbert, then Dr. Tom Prichard came down to make it a triple-team. Doug's brother, Eddie, ran in to save Doug from further punishment.

OTHER BOUTS: Texas Ranger defeated Dan Davis . . . Chris Candido defeated Texas Outlaw I . . . Bill Dundee pinned Texas Outlaw II . . . Dr. Tom Prichard pinned Hurricane Walker . . . Eddie Gilbert pinned Tony Anthony . . . Jeff Jarrett & Robert Fuller defeated Tex Salanger & Master Blaster.

DAYTONA BEACH, FL
By Fred Moore



BIG JOSH
vs.
DAN SPIVEY



Spivey stands 6'8", but that didn't faze the mountain man Josh. Though he was at a distinct disadvantage in height, Josh went after Spivey heartily, throwing punches and kicks like he was the bigger of the two. But when Spivey retaliated with his own blows, it was clear to see how he was hurting Josh. Then they took their battle outside the ring and laced into each other so intently they hardly noticed when the referee counted them both out.

OTHER BOUTS: Arn Anderson pinned Powerhouse Parker . . . Junkyard Dog beat El Cubano . . . Dustin Rhodes pinned Black Bart . . . U.S. champion Lex Luger battled Nikita Koloff to a double-disqualification . . . Ron Simmons pinned Butch Reed . . . Bobby Eaton pinned Terrence Taylor.

WRESTLING CAPITALS

DUBLIN, IRELAND
By Paul Hynes



RODDY PIPER
vs.
EARTHQUAKE



Piper started taunting Earthquake before they locked up. Then he tried to slam 'Quake, but couldn't do it. The two brawled wildly, with Piper even trying to execute Earthquake's vertical splash; 'Quake easily kicked out. When the referee was knocked down, both men began fighting out on the arena floor. While Earthquake was down, Piper reentered the ring and won by countout. **OTHER BOUTS:** Jim Neidhart beat The Barbarian . . . Greg Valentine forced Steve Lombardi to submit . . . Warlord pinned Jimmy Snuka . . . The Rockers defeated The Orient Express . . . Jake Roberts pinned Berzerker . . . Davey Boy Smith defeated Ted DiBiase . . . Kerry Von Erich beat Haku.

JOHNSTOWN, PA
By Alvin Harbor



EL GIGANTE
vs.
ONE MAN GANG



Even with his tremendous size, Gang was visibly intimidated by Gigante. Gang's rulebreaking tactics helped him somewhat, but Gigante did much more damage to the massive Chicago brawler. With each passing minute, Gigante seemed closer to victory. Then interference came in the form of Kevin Sullivan, Ric Flair, and Arn Anderson. Before Gigante had a chance to prove he could take on all four men at once, he was declared the winner by disqualification.
OTHER BOUTS: Rick Morton pinned Dr. X . . . Tommy Rich beat Joey Maggs . . . Tracey Smothers pinned Black Bart . . . U.S. champion Lex Luger and Nikita Koloff were both counted out . . . Rick Steiner pinned Dan Spivey . . . Brian Pillman & Sting defeated Ric Flair & Arn Anderson.

EUCLID, OH
By John Macalister



JERRY LAWLER
vs.
KAMALA



Lawler, the USWA champion, has had several wild encounters with the "Ugandan Giant," and this was one of their wildest. Ohio fans looking for a pure wrestling match were sorely disappointed! Kamala tried to use his massive belly to shove "The King" around the ring, but Lawler used his lethal fists to stand up to the giant. The match was actually even—until The Sheik interfered on Kamala's behalf, giving Lawler the disqualification win.
OTHER BOUTS: Mike Sharpe pinned Rip Rogers . . . Little Moses pinned Little Ninja . . . Tank Sherman pinned The Steel City Beast . . . Psycho Mike beat The Sheik by disqualification . . . Vladimir Markoff defeated Ron Cumberledge . . . Madusa Miceli drew with Rockin' Robin.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

ST. PETERSBURG, FL: I know, because I talk to him all the time, that WCW World champion Ric Flair is a student of wrestling history. That's good, because it's history that so often comes back to slap you in the face. Anybody who says lightning never strikes twice in the same place has never been struck by lightning. I know a man who lives in western Texas. This guy has a farm, and out there in the middle of the farm is a toolshed.



RIC FLAIR VS. TATSUMI FUJINAMI

Well, about 10 years ago, the thing burned to the ground when it was struck by lightning. The following year, he rebuilt the darn thing and, wouldn't you know it, last fall it burned down to the ground again. So much for lightning. As for Flair, his victory here over Tatsumi Fujinami was absolutely fabulous. It came during the WCW's (I still have trouble saying that; it keeps wrestling with the "NWA" that tries to roll off my tongue) Super Brawl pay-per-view card, and it proved beyond any doubt that Flair, not Fujinami, is the real champion. Anyway, Flair said afterward: "Looks like I'm running out of contenders. I've beaten Sting, El Gigante, Lex Luger, anybody they've put in front of me. They say Bobby Eaton will be next, and I welcome the challenge." Well, Flair shouldn't lay out the welcome mat, not if he knows what's good for him. Especially not if he remembers history and a man named Ronnie Garvin. Three years ago, I would've laid very big odds that Garvin couldn't beat Flair for the World title, but he did. In other words, sometimes it's the *least* likely contenders that get the job done in wrestling; look at Sgt. Slaughter, who went from washed-up to WWF World champion. What I'm saying is that Eaton is very dangerous right now, and he has momentum gained from winning the TV title from Arn Anderson. Personally, I've never seen Eaton look better. I think Flair has a pretty hefty task coming up.

GUAYNABO, PUERTO RICO: Made the mistake of putting down midgets in the June 3 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly*. Big mistake. Butch Cassidy beat Little Louie to win the WWC midget title on May 16 here. Afterward, I wrote that one midget title—the WWC's is the only one in wrestling—is one too many. To which Cassidy subsequently responded: "What do you want me to do, wrestle Hulk Hogan?" Actually, my point here is: define "midget." What if a person is simply short? Can a normal 13-year-old wrestle Cassidy for the belt? Years ago, midget matches were like sideshow attractions. They were card filler. They always had lots of action because the sport produced some legendary midget athletes, but they were essentially diversions. Now here's the WWC making something out of practically nothing. Midget title? I say it's no big deal.

TAMPA, FL: One day—*one day!*—before the WCW's big pay-per-view event in St. Petersburg, the WWF brought the whole shebang to Tampa, just a few miles down the street. Coincidence? Well, wrestling has become very big business, and while most feuds come and go, the WWF and WCW have had a real doozy going on for a long time. The result, at least here, was that people in the St. Petersburg/Tampa area were treated to two days of top-notch wrestling (and ol' Brock got two cards for the

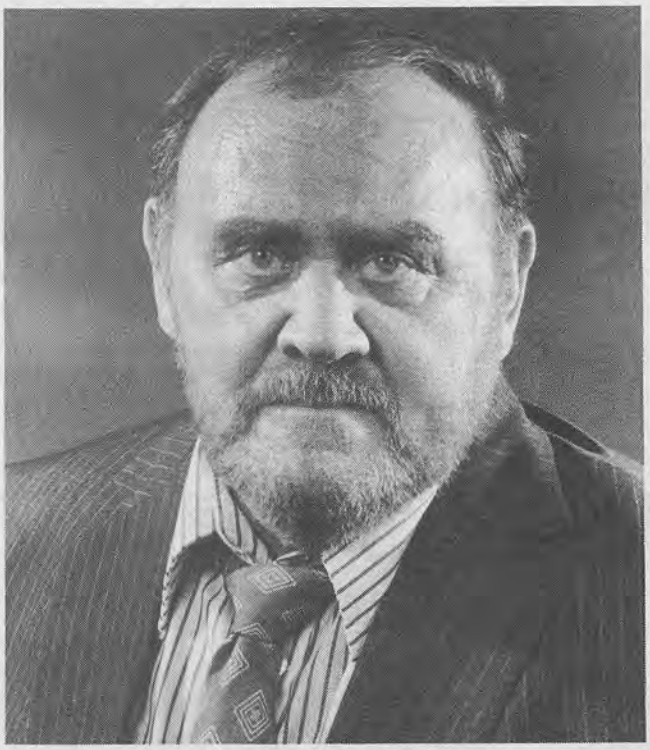
Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

price of one plane ticket; I'm sure Peters'll go for that). WCW was the clear winner in this battle. Its pay-per-view card was outstanding. The WWF put on a good show (although where was Hulk Hogan?), but I still don't know why Rick Steamboat has to rely on theatrics. Here's a great wrestler with a great history relying on costumes and fire-breathing to draw attention to himself. (Rick, we were *already* watching; now we're starting to think twice about it.) Nonetheless, the prediction here is that Steamboat will eventually unseat Curt Hennig for the I-C belt. Here's a match made in heaven, and I'm sure the WWF matchmakers are just waiting for Steamboat to prove that he's 100 percent back. When the time comes, Hennig's in trouble.



RICK "THE DRAGON" STEAMBOAT

PHILADELPHIA, PA: Attended a press conference here to announce an old-timers' battle royal on Tri-State's August 3 "Summer Spectacular" card. Killer Kowalski,



BULLDOG BROWER

Bulldog Brower, Dominic DeNucci, and a host of other former top stars will be on hand, and I'm starting to wonder if this old-timers' bit will ever catch on. It never draws a crowd. To me, it seems as if the federations went out of their way to ignore history and succeeded far beyond their wildest expectations: *Nobody* wants to know about the greats of the past. Too bad. Anyway, I'm sure Tri-State's card will do very well, and most of the fans in attendance will head for the rest rooms and refreshment stands during the battle royal. By the way, I've heard through the grapevine that Bulldog Brower has calmed down considerably since his wrestling days. That's good news for a lot of foreheads. □

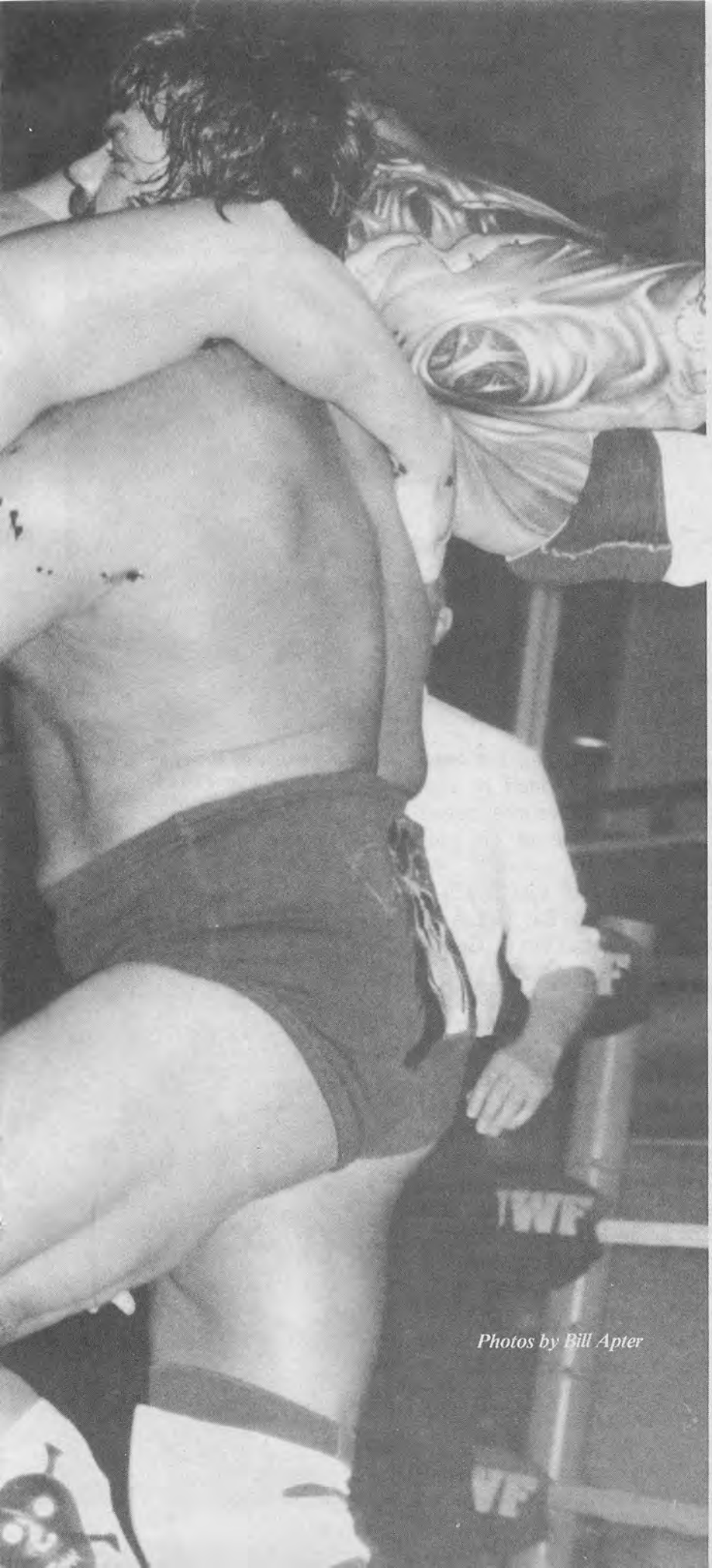
Tired of the derisive howls of some fans, the always upbeat Steve Ray decided to get serious—and get tough. Despite his status as a relative newcomer, the "Wild Thing" is taking on the UWF's roughest men in order to prove he's more than just a pretty face!

In Order To Prove His Worth...

STEVE RAY THROWS HIMSELF TO THE LIONS!



Determined to shed his "pretty boy" image, Steve "Wild Thing" Ray took on "Dr. Death" Steve Williams (above), who tried to show Ray he was making a mistake (right).



Photos by Bill Apter

By Bob Smith

AS HARD AS he tried to, Steve Ray just couldn't understand. The ebullient youngster known as "Wild Thing" had just defeated The Beast in a hard-fought UWF match in New York. After catching the masked rulebreaker with a DDT and pin, Ray leaped in the air and let out a triumphant war cry.

As the jubilant Ray prepared to make his way back to the dressing room, most fans cheered him. However, he could hear the unmistakable sound of booing coming from one ringside section. Ray walked over to the fans to find out what was wrong.

"What's the deal, guys?" asked a smiling Ray. "Why get on my case? After all, I won! Lighten up!"

"Hey, *beat* somebody!" screamed one young heckler, who had been riding Ray unmercifully. "Who is The Beast, anyway? Go back to the dressing room with the other prelim bums, pretty boy!"

The young Kansas native kept smiling as he made his way around ringside, but inside his spirit was crushed. In the locker room, Ray's partner in the tag team Wet 'n' Wild, Sunny Beach, was preparing for his own match later on.

"Sunny, I don't get it," said Ray as he sat dejectedly in a folding chair. "I busted my gut to win that match, but some of those fans were *booing* me. What do I have to do to please these people?"

Beach let out a chuckle and sat down next to his friend. More experienced than Ray, Beach is used to the foibles of some wrestling fans.

"What you gotta realize is this: You can't please all the people all the time," he explained sympathetically. "Some people just aren't going to side with you no matter what you do. And with your looks, some guys are bound to be jealous."



"I realize that," said Ray, hurling his boot across the floor. "It's just that they said I hadn't beaten anybody in the UWF."

"That's not true," reasoned Beach. "Together, we've defeated The Power Twins and Bob Orton and Cactus Jack. We're a hell of a team, partner."

"Yeah, but in a way those guys were right," said Ray. "All my success has been with you. I need to be taken seriously on my *own*."

From that point on, Ray's contemporaries began to notice a change in the usually fun-loving newcomer. The next morning, Ray went to UWF President Herb Abrams and requested to be entered in the tournament to determine the first UWF TV champion.

Since he was wrestling as a single for the first time in the UWF, Ray wasn't given much chance of going very far in the tournament. Using his newfound conviction, however, he scored upset victories over Bob Orton and Col. DeBeers to make it to the semifinals—and a match against Steve Williams, acknowledged by most experts as the sport's most powerful man. And one of the most brutal.

"Don't give up," said Beach as he tried to inspire Ray before the match. "Prove your worth. Get out there and give him hell!"

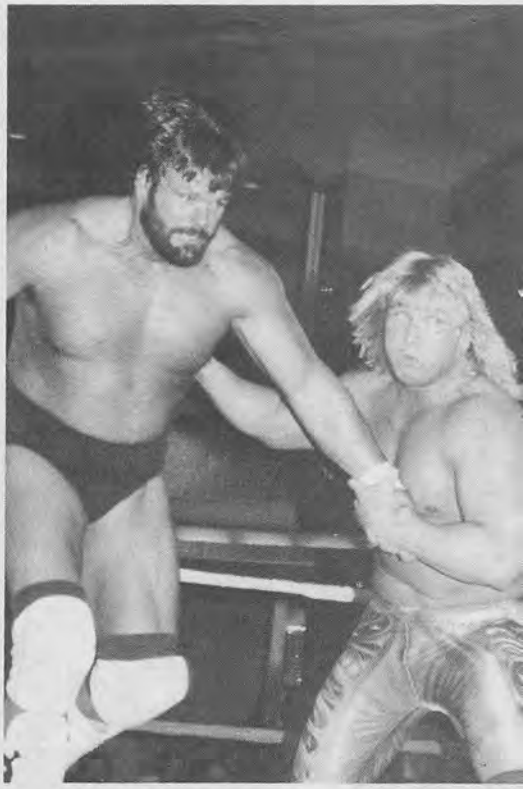
Which is exactly what Ray did. When he made his way to the ring, Ray didn't stop to clown with the fans. When he leaped over the ropes and removed his ring jacket, he heard the usual smattering of boos.

Even Williams didn't seem to take Ray seriously at first. After trading holds, Ray tried hitting Williams with a dropkick, but "Dr. Death" alertly moved away, allowing Ray to crash to the mat. As Williams let out a laugh, Ray leaped to his feel and blasted Williams with a clothesline, sending the veteran tumbling out of the ring to the arena floor.

With total disregard for the con-

(Continued on page 62)

Williams and Ray scuffle on the mat, carefully watched by referee Dick Kroll (above). Ray sends Doc across the ring (below). Ray surprised even his most ardent supporters by the way he stood up to the powerful and unrelenting Williams.



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THE 25th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE OF

The Wrestler

ON SALE JULY 16th!

RICK RUDE Doesn't Mean To Be Rude, But . . .

"IF YOU'RE A MANAGER, KEEP THE HELL AWAY!"

By Dave Rosenbaum

RICK RUDE DOESN'T sit down and watch TV. He turns the set on and paces around the room. He lifts light weights, stops a few minutes to rant and rave, then catches a few more moments of the show in progress. He tosses a ball from hand to hand, then takes a comb out and fixes his hair. He has a guest. Rude doesn't care. He's too hyperactive to sit down, too busy to entertain . . . *men,* anyway.

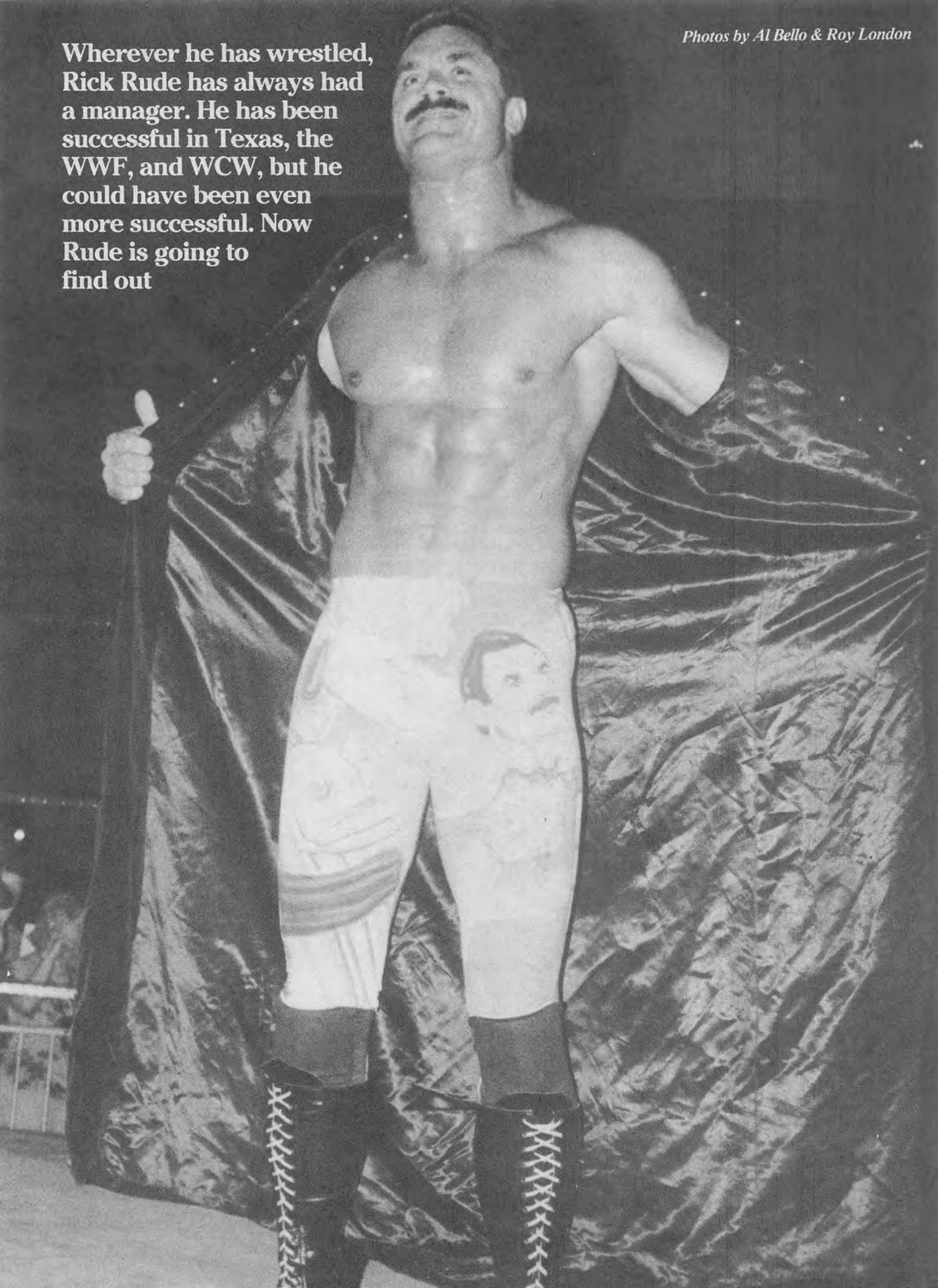
But something on TV has caught Rude's eye, and he lets his body fall into an underused easy chair. Suddenly, his eyes gloss over with rage as the image of Paul Bearer fills the screen.

"Bearer my butt!" Rude screams. "That's Percy Pringle and he's one of those guys that have been responsible for trying to ruin my career. If I could get my hands on him, I'd rip his neck off of his ugly, obese body."

Rude eschews the remote control, which he has already slammed to the floor, and walks over to shut off the



Bobby Heenan managed him to the Intercontinental title in 1989, but now Rick Rude says he doesn't need advice from Heenan—or anyone else, for that matter.



Photos by Al Bello & Roy London

Wherever he has wrestled, Rick Rude has always had a manager. He has been successful in Texas, the WWF, and WCW, but he could have been even more successful. Now Rude is going to find out

TV with his fist. His hyperactivity, already sky-high, has reached an astronomical level. He is not a happy man. Bad memories have come flowing back.

"Let me tell you something," Rude says when he finally calms down to a reasonable level about 45 minutes later. "Managers are bad news. All they do is give you worthless advice and take your money away. Look at all I've accomplished in my career, and I'll tell you, it could have been a lot better without managers. Now it *will* be a lot better."

Few wrestling experts would disagree with Rude's self-assessment, but Rude needs to prove a point. He walks over to a bank of videotapes and pulls out a plastic case marked "Texas."

"This is my highlights tape," Rude said. "This is the tape I watch whenever some manager calls and tries to sign me on. This sets me straight, as if I really needed setting straight."

The first match shows Rude wrestling Chris Adams. It is obviously a match from the old World Class area in Texas. Percy Pringle, cane in hand, is standing at ringside and Rude seems to be in control of the match.

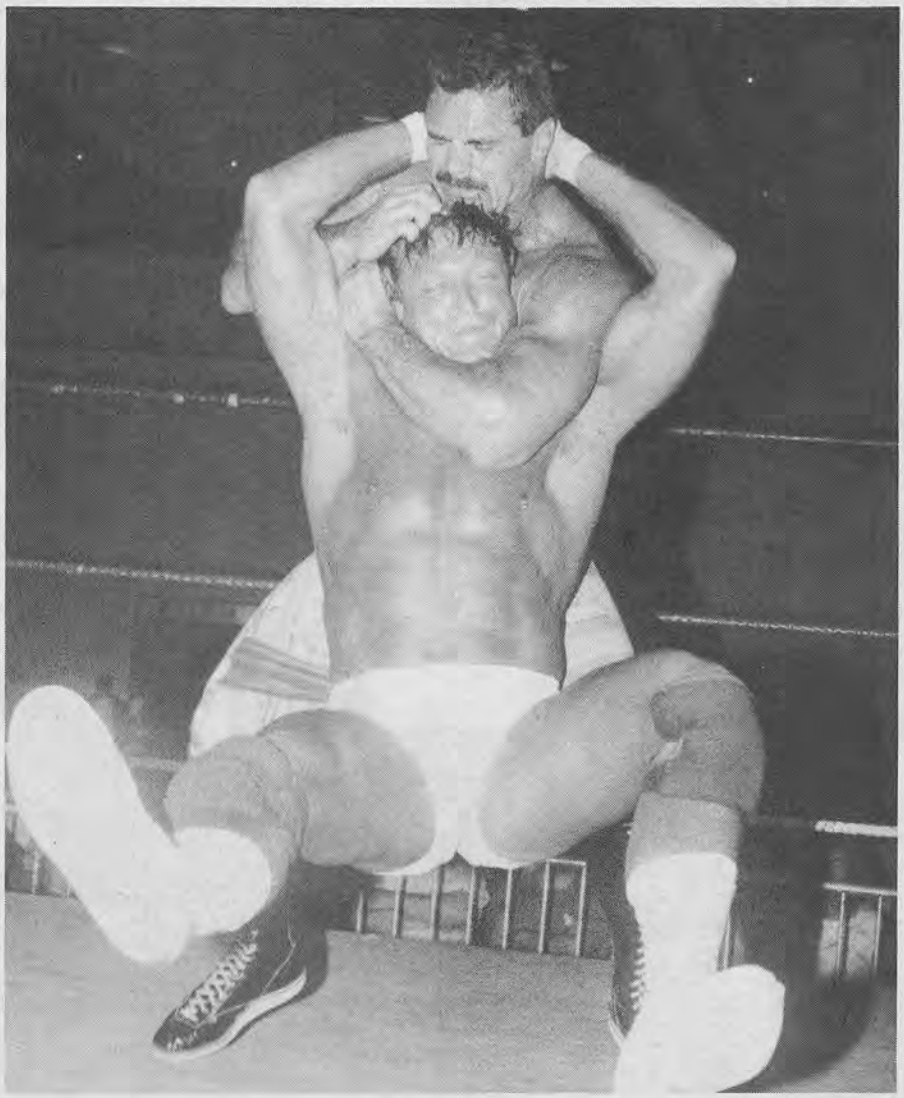
"Now watch this!" Rude demands. Almost on cue, Pringle reaches over to bash Adams with his cane. But Pringle mistakenly hits Rude and Adams covers him for the pin.

"That's one," Rude screams. "Now it gets worse, if you can believe that."

Rude is right. On the screen, Rude and Manny Fernandez, the NWA World tag team champions at the time, are wrestling The Road Warriors. Rude and Fernandez' manager, Paul Jones, is at ringside, and he doesn't have a cane.

"Nah," Rude fumes. "He was worse. He has his big mouth. What's the worst thing you can do to The Road Warriors?" Rude doesn't wait for an answer. "Right, get them going, make them mad. Which is exactly what Jones is doing here. You can't hear him, but look at Jones' mouth move, he's barking out orders, insulting the Warriors, and we're trying to wrestle.





In a recent tussle with Paul Orndorff (above and below), Rude didn't have a manager at ringside. Rude says his managers only interfered in his matches and stole his money.



In the Orndorff bout, Rude was disqualified for using a chair (above). A manager could have used a chair for him, or saved him from attacks outside the ring (below).





Rude insists that Percy Pringle (wielding the bat) cost him the World Class title. The "Ravishing One" is determined to make it on his own.

Listen, I don't need that crap. Jones had absolutely nothing to offer me and Manny."

The highlights show is not over. Now the screen shows a more recent incident. Rude is in the ring with a young woman. Bobby Heenan, Rude's manager in the WWF, is providing commentary.

"This is the kind of crap Heenan loved, but it had absolutely nothing to do with wrestling," Rude said. "He liked to see how the women swarm to me, and they do, but Bobby couldn't get his own women, so he'd just watch me. Meanwhile, my career was going down the tubes and Heenan wasn't doing anything to help me. All he did was pick women out of the crowd for me. He certainly didn't help my wrestling."

Rude is absolutely correct in his analysis. He has been successful in every federation he has wrestled in. He was World Class champion. He and Fernandez were World tag team champions. In the WWF, Rude upset The Ultimate Warrior for the Intercontinental title.

"And if you look at every one of those title reigns, they all ended because one of my managers screwed up," Rude said.

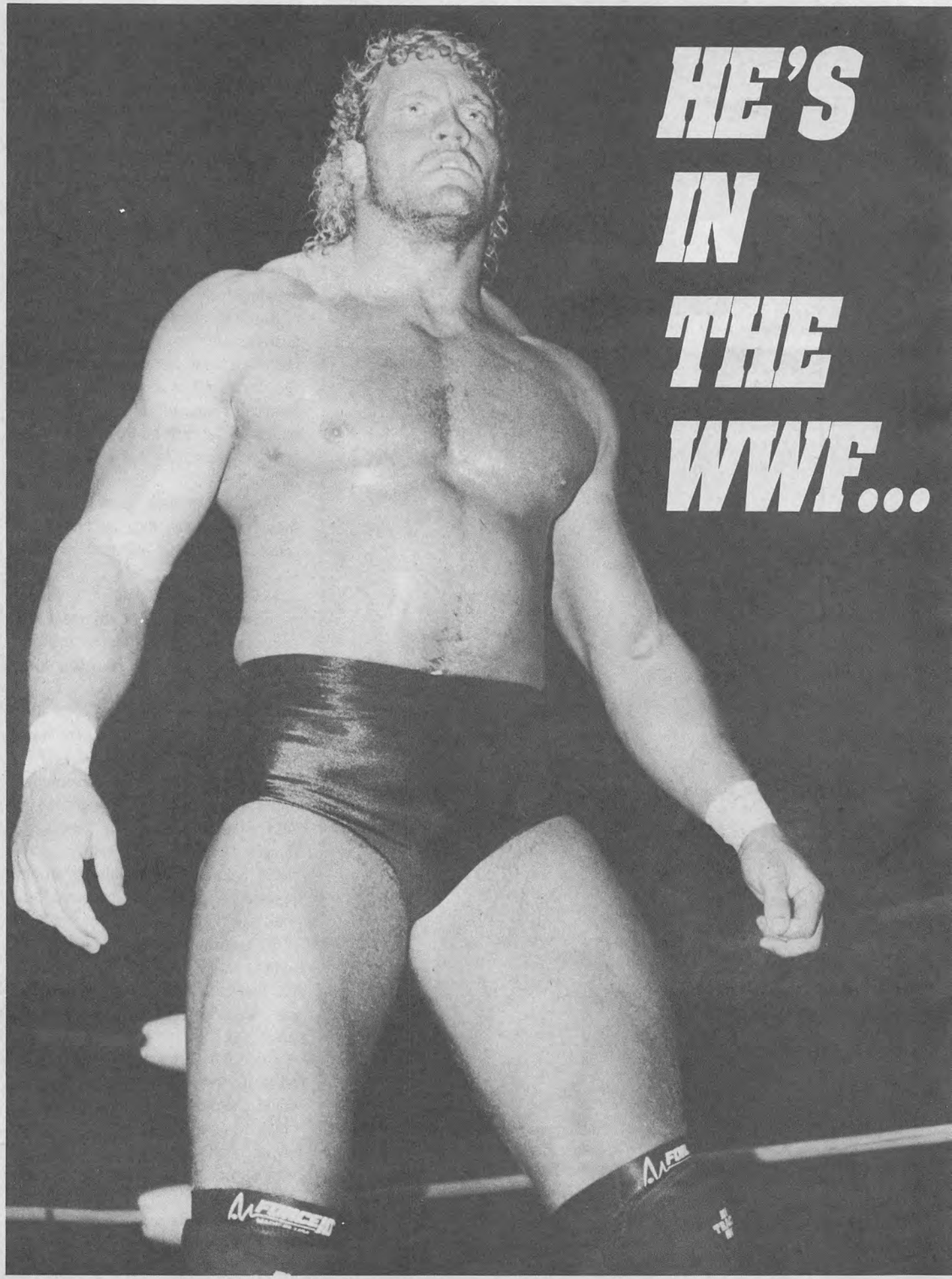
Now Rude is wrestling on the independent circuit and his attitude about managers was summed up in this one sentence: "If you're a manager, keep the hell away."

"I should have realized this long ago," Rude continued. "There were nights when my manager couldn't be at ringside for one reason or another, and I always managed to win anyway. And when you look at it, they never discussed match strategy with me, they never pointed out weaknesses in my opponents. They just interfered and took my money."

It's unfortunate that it took Rude so long to realize what the wrestling world has known for ages. He is an outstanding wrestler. His record cannot be questioned.

Rude has a gigantic ego. He, above all people, should have known that he could make it on his own. Instead, he bogged himself down with one manager after another. He never wrestled without one. Now Rude is finally on his own.

There may be strength in numbers, but in Rude's case, one head is better than two. □


HE'S
IN
THE
WWF...

By Craig Peters

AND HE'S IN THE BIGGEST TROUBLE OF HIS LIFE!

Sid Vicious has made worldwide headlines by moving from WCW to the WWF. Now he's looking to make headlines again—by obliterating the legend of Hulk Hogan!

YEAR AFTER YEAR, feud after feud, match after match, the refrains are the same:

"Don't sweat it!"

"He can handle himself!"

"Don't worry! He's been here before, he'll be here again, he knows what it's like."

"Just you wait, you'll see: He's gonna blast that guy so bad he'll never know what hit him."

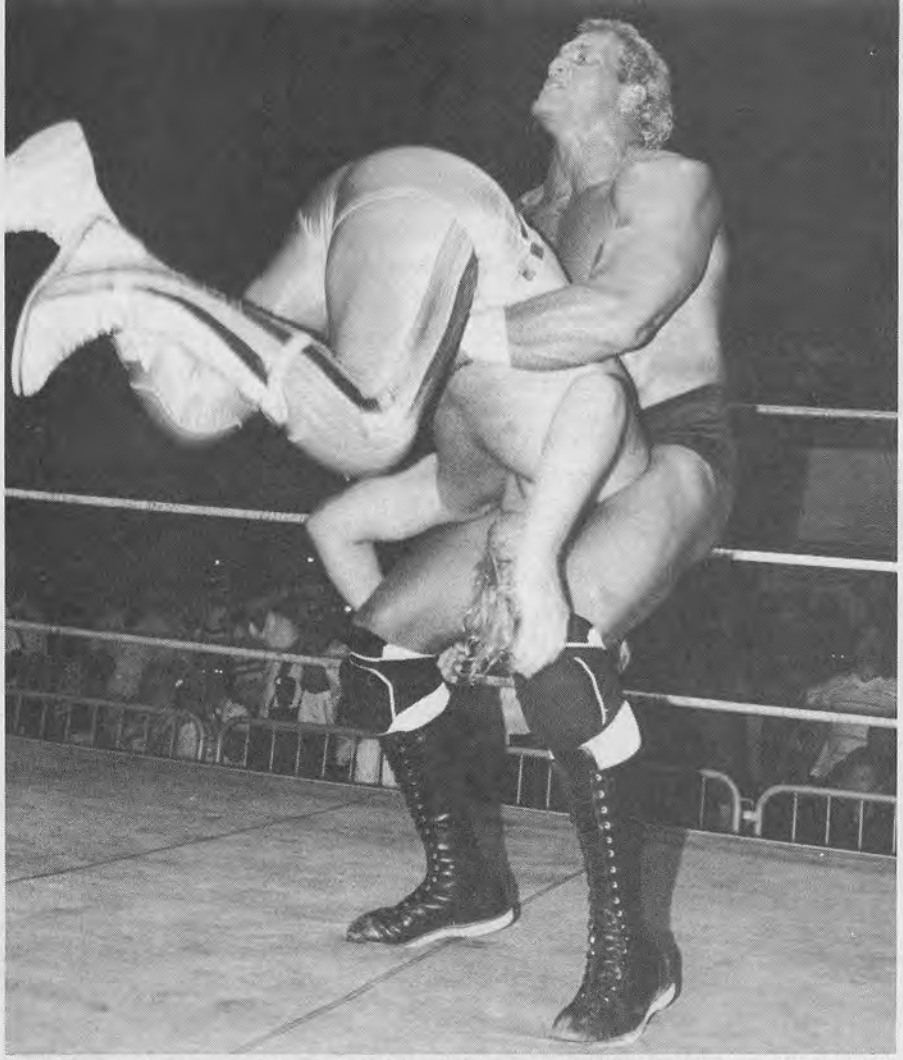
"Yeah, he may look like he's in trouble now, but hang on and give him a chance. He'll prove himself, just like he's always done."

The fans' collective faith in Hulk Hogan is staggering. No matter what kind of situation Hogan finds himself in, the fans pull behind the "Hulkster," rally their support, and propel him on to yet another stirring victory.

But in recent years, the refrains have been heard closer together. The need for the fans to rally has come more often.

Since April 1, 1990, Hogan has faced the most formidable tests of his career: He was pinned by The Ultimate Warrior at WrestleMania VI . . . He was attacked by Earthquake and sidelined from the sport for several months . . . He had to avenge himself against Earthquake . . . He had to battle for American pride when Sgt. Slaughter captured the WWF World title . . . In the wake of beating Slaughter at WrestleMania VII, he was burned by a fireball and has subsequently absorbed severe beatings in almost every match he's had with the former





Sid Vicious delivers one of his devastating piledrivers on Bobby Eaton (above). Would Hulk Hogan (below, absorbing a beating from Gen. Adnan and Sgt. Slaughter) be able to withstand such a brutal attack from the mighty Vicious?

Marine.

It is not a harsh criticism to say that the "Hulkster" of 1991 is having a far more difficult time of it than the "Hulkster" of, say, 1986 who cruised to victory over Randy Savage ... Who, while injured, defeated King Kong Bundy in a steel cage at WrestleMania II ... Who defeated Paul Orndorff in front of more than 74,000 fans in Toronto's Exhibition Stadium.

Indeed, these recent months have not been easy ones for Hulk Hogan.

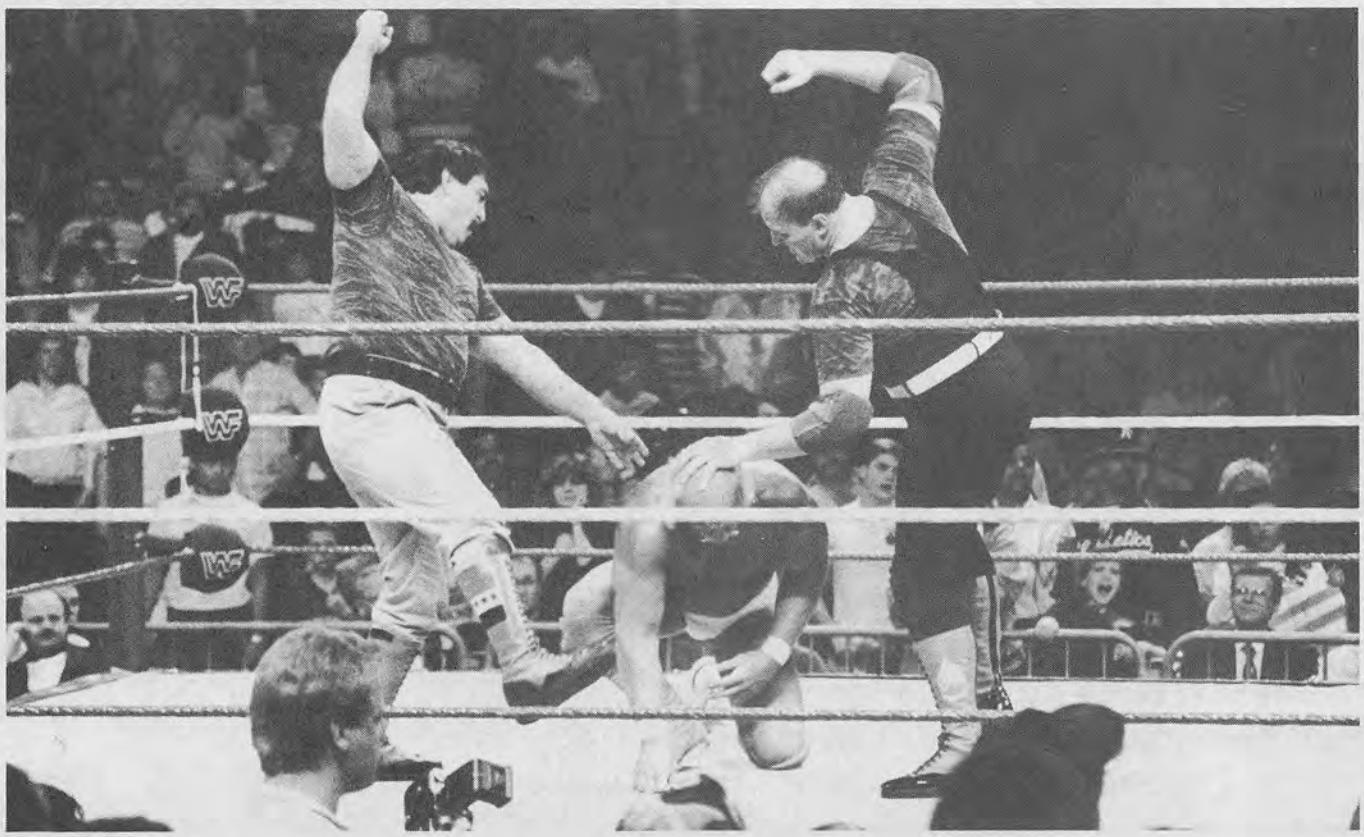
And they're about to get infinitely more difficult.

Sid Vicious has arrived in the WWF.

Hogan and Vicious both stand 6'8". Vicious outweighs Hogan by 26 pounds. But a simple tale of the tape doesn't begin to imply the difficulties Hogan is about to face.

Consider the mental states of both men:

Hogan is weary from having battled Slaughter across the country and around the world. Slaughter, certainly not a muscular powerhouse or a canny tactician, has in-







Sid Vicious has the power to dominate a foe such as Hawk (top left) or execute a devastating move like the power bomb (right). That could spell big trouble for Hulk Hogan, who had problems with Earthquake (above), a foe he should have been able to easily conquer.



flicted a series of severe beatings on the "Hulkster" that have seen crimson plasma flow from Hogan's head in almost every match.

Vicious, on the other hand, is lean, mean, and hungry. Bitter over his inability to secure what he felt were deserved title shots at WCW World champion Ric Flair, Vicious bolted the federation in search of championship gold. Intercontinental champion Curt Hennig may not be sleeping well these days with Vicious in the WWF, but it is undoubtedly Hogan that will be the big man's ultimate target.

"The big reason Sid left WCW is not so much that he wanted to go to the WWF, but that he wanted to wrestle Hogan," said one WCW rulebreaker who requested anonymity. "He was getting pretty crazed the last few months he was here. It was like his mind wasn't on his business. Do you think El Gigante could have beaten Sid so handily [at Super Brawl '91] if Sid wasn't preoccupied? Believe me, Sid has a one-track mind right now, and Hogan's his one and only thought."

Which puts Hogan in the most troubled position of his career. When Warrior beat Hogan at WrestleMania VI, there were doubts about Hogan's ability to come back and be successful in a third WWF title reign. When Earthquake injured the "Hulkster," a return to the ring seemed next to impossible.

Yes, Hogan returned, but think about it:

Shouldn't the "Hulkster" have been able to dispose of Earthquake far more handily than he did? (Remember that it took him many long months of feuding to shake the 'Quake, and even in his biggest match against Earthquake—at SummerSlam '90—the "Hulkster" was only able to secure a relatively hollow countout victory).

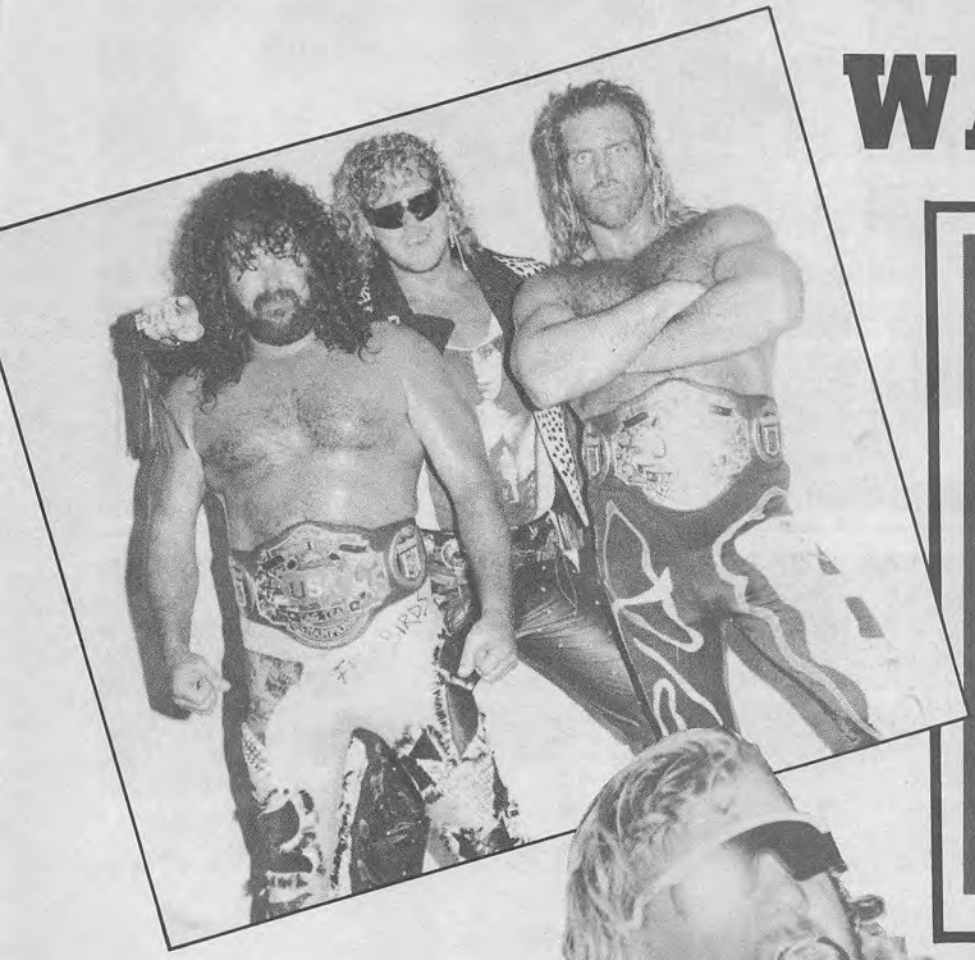
Shouldn't the "Hulkster" have been able to dispose of Slaughter far more handily than he did? (Remember that Slaughter came very close to defeating Hogan at WrestleMania VII, far closer than a washed-up ex-Marine should have been able to come against a genuine legend like Hogan.)

Will the "Hulkster" be able to dispose of Sid Vicious? (Remember that Vicious is younger than Hogan, hungrier than Hogan, fresher than Hogan, and perhaps even stronger than Hogan.)

If you were Hulk Hogan, would *you* want to be facing the threat of Sid Vicious right now?

Frightening, isn't it? □

WARNING:



Out with the old, in with the new. Out with the bad, in with the worse. The Four Horsemen are gone from WCW, but don't look now: The Diamond Exchange is ready to take its place!





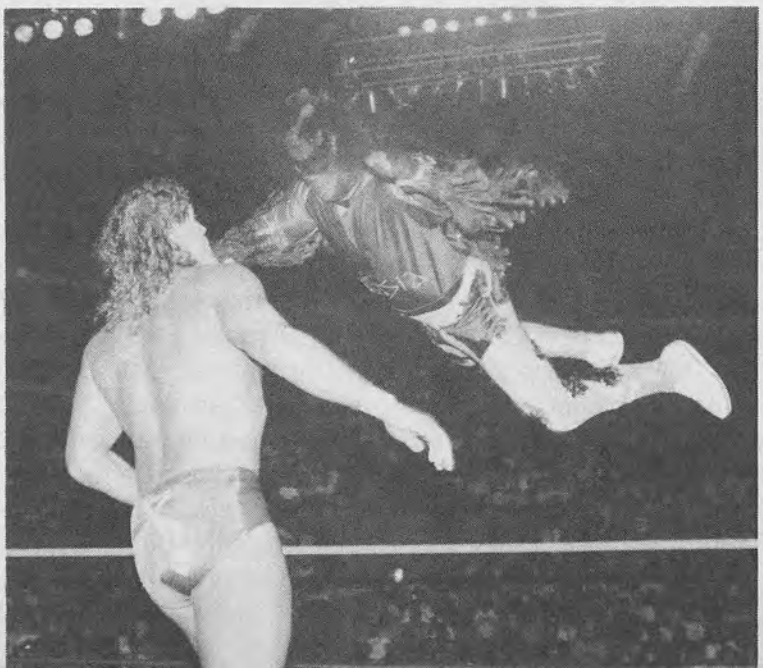
Photos by Bill Apter & Stu Saks

THE DIAMOND EXCHANGE IS THE SECOND COMING OF THE FOUR HORSEMEN

By Dave Rosenbaum

WHEN WORD LEAKED out that The Four Horsemen had decided to call it quits as an organization, "Diamond" Dallas Page was sitting in a seedy little bar on the outskirts of Tampa, Florida. In the underworld, news travels fast. Page knew what had happened within minutes after the Horsemen concluded their meeting.

"Done," Page said with his right hand on his chin and his arm propped on the table. It was the thinking man's position, a position not often associated with a man like



Fantasia, the masked Freebird, is the latest threat to The Young Pistols, and every other fan favorite in WCW.

Page, who so often acts on evil impulse.

"They're done, but the party has just begun," Page continued. "They're done, that's fine, but it wouldn't have really mattered. That just opens the door for The Diamond Exchange."

Over the next few months, as word spread about the Horsemen's demise (although, as we have seen, demise is too strong a word), Page conducted his business in the background, almost unnoticed. He was not the story. Not *yet.*

He built his organization. He put the final pieces together. He planned and put his plans into action. And now we know what Page has done.

It's enough to make a right-thinking wrestling fan scream: "Bring back the Horsemen!"

On May 19 at the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg, Florida, The Freebirds—Jimmy Garvin and Michael Hayes, the Diamond Exchange's centerpiece—won the vacant U.S. tag team title by defeating The Young Pistols—Tracey Smothers and Steve Armstrong.

This victory could not be called remarkable. In most circles, the more-experienced Freebirds were considered favorites. But it was how they won, a mixture of past and future style, that made the news.

In the early moments of the match, Big Daddy Dink, the Freebird "road boss," battered the Young Pistols outside of the ring. Dink was finally ordered back to the dressing room.

Dink was no longer a factor. But the outside interference wasn't over. When referee Mike Adkins was knocked out, Fantasia—the new masked Freebird—ran to the ring to lend a hand. He attacked the Pistols with a series of devastating DDTs and then rolled Hayes on top of Armstrong for the three-count.

The victory was so reminiscent of the Horsemen's style that Ric Flair, watching a closed-circuit television, remarked: "These guys really have their strategy in synch. I liked what I saw."





Big Daddy Dink (above) helps Page in his managerial duties. Despite the Pistols' brilliant double-team wrestling at Super Brawl (below), they couldn't overcome Page and company.

There was almost a sense of longing in Flair's eyes as he spoke. When the Horsemen were young, they were capable of anything. It is this same hope for bad deeds yet undone that seems to inspire The Diamond Exchange.

But there's more. Page recently added The Diamond Stud, a talented, muscular wrestler, to his stable. And when Page remarked, "I'm going to be the most powerful manager in WCW," the general feeling was that Page, for once, was understating his accomplishments. He already *is* the most powerful manager in WCW.

" 'Diamond' likes to take it slow, you know, he's not the type that likes to boast, but what he's done makes the Horsemen look like small potatoes," Hayes said. "Yeah, I was a part of The Freebirds when we were three-strong and ruling the roost, but now we're with 'Diamond' and we're still on top. Me and Jimmy have walked into a gold mine."

Or, if you will, a diamond mine. According to insiders, Page has put together a corporate structure similar to the Horsemen's. Page has often been seen in conference with Arn Anderson, a highly influential mem-

ber of the Horsemen. Both men refused to elaborate upon their discussions. Anderson, however, did say: "We have a lot in common."

If that's the case, then the Horsemen's old motto, "one for all and all for one" seemingly applies to the Diamond Exchange, too. They all have a financial stake in each other's success.

"It's important to have a reason to want your teammates to win," Page said. "To me, there's never been a better reason than money. You know what they say: Love fades, interest compounds. That's what the Diamond Exchange is all about."

The rise of The Diamond Exchange is certainly nothing to celebrate. WCW's fan favorites can now look forward to countless incidents of outside interference and cheating by the Diamond Exchange members. Their opponents must always be wary.

"That's what being teammates is all about," Garvin said. "Listen, I've never been so comfortable in my life. I feel like I've got title insurance. Nobody's gonna touch me and Mike."

Smothers and Armstrong don't exactly disagree. They both realize the task that lays ahead. This tag team war has become a five-on-two battle.

"Sure, it's unfair, but sometimes things don't go the way you planned," Smothers said. "By my way of thinking, The Freebirds have nothing to be proud of. They won that title by cheating, and they know that. If that's enough for them, fine, but it's not enough for me. At some point, Page and his boys will make a mistake, and Steve and I will be there to capitalize."

Armstrong and Smothers must be warned. Remember what the Horsemen did to Lex Luger and Sting? The Diamond Exchange is capable of doing just as much to Smothers and Armstrong—maybe *more.*

The WCW sky cleared when the Horsemen disbanded, but another storm quickly took its place. The Diamond Exchange is here, a shining example of everything that's wrong with wrestling. □



Dink isn't afraid to interfere in The Freebirds' matches (above), which is one reason why the 'Birds captured the WCW U.S. tag team title (below). Page's "Diamond Exchange" has become the most powerful organization in WCW.



HOTSEAT

MISSY HYATT

"I'M MORE OF A MAN THAN PAUL E. WILL EVER BE!"

SOME PEOPLE LOVE her, other people hate her, but few people are ambivalent about WCW commentator Missy Hyatt.

Count among those who love her: most male viewers of WCW broadcasts. Indeed, the shapely blonde beauty has won legions of loyal fans, despite the relative shallowness of her commentary ("Who cares what she says—just look at her!" might be a typical viewer's reply!).

Count among those who hate her: Paul E. Dangerously and Stan Hansen.

Dangerously and Hyatt are very competitive. So much so that they have engaged in a series of arm-wrestling contests, the most notable being on the January 30 Clash XIV card. When Hyatt removed her warmup jacket to reveal a low-cut blouse, Paul E. was defeated before he even had the chance to get started. At press time, rumors persist that the two will engage in a series of matches at the Great American Bash.

Hansen, meanwhile, has been the focus of Hyatt's campaign to storm men's locker rooms at Clashes and pay-per-view events. Should Hyatt be allowed in the locker rooms to pursue interviews? "The Lariat" doesn't think so.

*With Hyatt in the midst of so much controversy lately, **Inside Wrestling's** Editor-in-Chief Craig Peters interviewed her prior to a WCW television taping in Birmingham, Alabama.*

"You know, Paul E. is really a wimp. He's a spoiled brat, plain and simple."

Q: Missy, I want to thank you for taking the time out of your day to speak with us. I'm sure there's a lot of preparation you have to do for tonight's taping, and . . .

A: Aww, Craig, I don't have *that* much to do to get ready. I mean, sure, there's the hairdresser, then I have my makeup, then there's . . .

Q: Well, er, I meant preparation in terms of studying notes, strategies, preparing for interviews.

A: I'm *always* prepared. Say, by the way, you don't mind if I do my nails while we talk, do you?

Q: Actually, the smell . . .

A: Oh, thanks, Craig, you're a real sweetie.

Q: You . . . er, you're welcome, Missy. I guess.

A: You know, all you guys at *Inside Wrestling* are real sweet, but I have one teeny-weensy complaint to make.

Q: A complaint?

A: Yeah. I mean, last month you got me and Paul together ["One On One" in the August 1991 *Inside Wrestling*], **and he was just so *mean* to me! I mean, it just wasn't *fair*, you know what I mean?**

Q: Well, Missy, we really don't have too much control over . . .

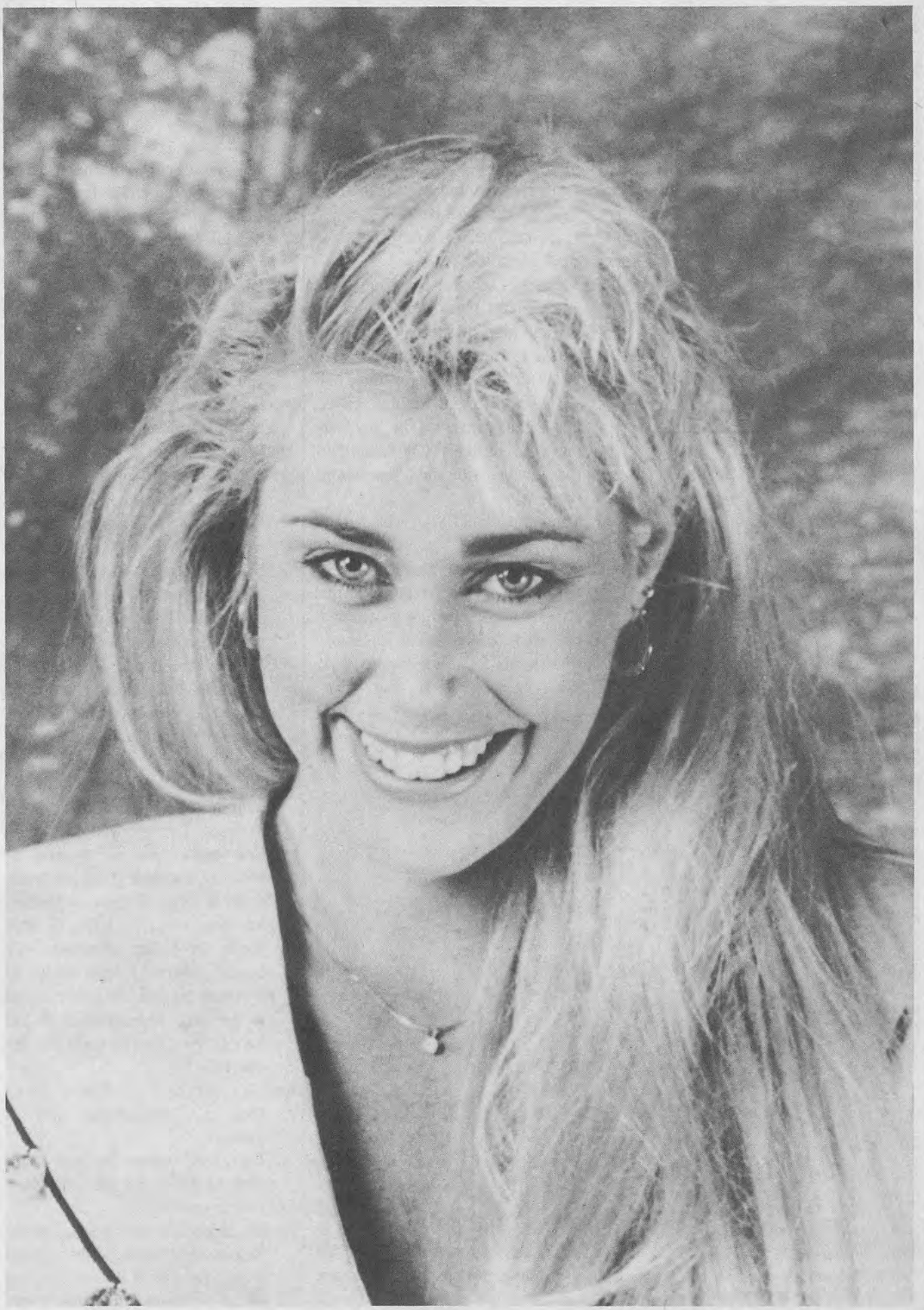
A: You know, he was insulting me like I was some kind of bimbo or something. Which I'm not, you know, and I really, really don't like that at all. I think he owes me an apology for all the things he said to me.

Q: I think you're probably right.

A: You know, Paul E. is really a wimp. He's a spoiled brat, plain and simple. He was raised in Westchester in New York, did you know that?

Q: Yes, I did.

A: Yeah, he was raised in a rich town





“I’m just a journalist trying to do my job, you know what I mean?”

with rich parents and was given everything he ever asked for and he’s just such a spoiled brat it makes me wanna just *scream*, you know what I mean?

Q: I know *exactly* what you mean, Missy.

A: I mean, *I’m* more of a man than Paul E. will ever be.

Q: I . . . uh, well, I doubt that . . . er, I don’t think . . .

A: Awwwww! (laughs) Oh, Craig, you know what I mean! Paul E. hasn’t got any kind of spine or spunk or *anything*. He’s a slug, it’s that simple. And a sneaky slug at that, but still a slug. I mean, you’ll never see him getting involved in anything important on the WCW scene, like I’m doing with my journalistic career.

Q: Your—uh, could you explain that a bit, Missy?

A: Sure! I’m talking about women’s rights, about the freedom of the press, about freedom of speech and the need of the public to know what needs to be known in . . .

Q: You’re talking about your problems with Stan Hansen.

A: *That’s* right! Say, what do you think of this shade for my nails?

Q: Lovely. Now explain to me why you feel you ought to be allowed in the men’s locker rooms.

A: Well, why not? All the men are allowed in the locker rooms, especially guys like “Z-Man” and “Flyin’ ” Brian, and I’m just a journalist trying to do my job, you know what I mean?

Q: Well, why can’t you wait outside the locker room and have one of the wrestlers go get someone for you to interview?

A: Gee, Craig, you don’t know much about journalism, do you?

Q: Well, I . . .

A: It’s just not the same if you do it like that. I mean, if I go into a locker room, I might surprise a wrestler who doesn’t expect me to be there. That means that I’m gonna get an honest response from him when I ask a question, not a prepared response. Hey, you watch *60 Minutes,* don’t you? Do you think Mike Wallace gives those people he interviews time to think up answers or does he put them on the spot?

Q: Well, Mike Wallace is hardly the same as . . .

A: You see, I’ve got you speechless! You don’t have an answer, do you? It’s the same thing I’m trying to do in terms of my own journalistic interviews. I’m trying to catch people in honest situations with honest answers. I have to be allowed to go into the locker rooms to get that accomplished. I just *have* to. Say, do you really like this nail color?

Q: Let’s get back to talking about Paul E. Dangerously for a moment.

A: That little twerp. Do you know what he did to me the other day?

Q: I can’t imagine.

A: He snuck into my dressing room, took my nail polish bottle, emptied it out, and put in disappearing red ink. Now I don’t think that’s very



Paul E. Dangerously gawks at Missy’s pulchritude—and loses this arm-wrestling contest with his WCW co-commentator.



Back in 1987, Missy wrestled a few matches in the UWF against Dark Journey. That experience may soon come in handy.

nice at all, do you?

Q: I guess it's pretty juvenile.

A: It sure is. Messed up my whole day. He does all kinds of things like that, and that's why I want to get him in the ring at the Great American Bash.

Q: Something most fans may not realize is that you've wrestled in the past.

A: Sure have. I wrestled a couple of times during my valet days a few years back, and I was pretty good, too! I won almost every match I was in. The last time I saw Paul E. in the ring he had his pants pulled down around his ankles by Jim Cornette! Boy, it would be my pleasure of all time to humiliate that little worm. He's not my equal in the announcing booth, and he sure isn't my equal when it comes to the ring.

Q: We're running out of time, Missy, but before we go I'd like to ask you about a rumor out of Hollywood that . . .

A: Awww, you're gonna ask me about Jason, aren't you?

Q: That's right. You and Jason Hervey of *The Wonder Years* seem to have become something of an item, and I'm wondering . . .

A: Jason's a really good friend, a real gentleman, and we have a lot of fun together. Did you know that Jason's godfather is Terry Funk? It's true! Jason has wrestling in his blood almost as much as I do. And he's just *so* cute, don't you think?

Yes, the rumors are true: Missy and Jason Hervey of *The Wonder Years* are friends. Jason recently started a segment on WCW broadcasts: "The Bull Drop Inn" with Dusty Rhodes.



Q: Well, I . . .

A: I mean, he's just—*EEEEEK!*

Q: What's wrong?

A: My nails!

Q: I don't see anything wrong with your . . .

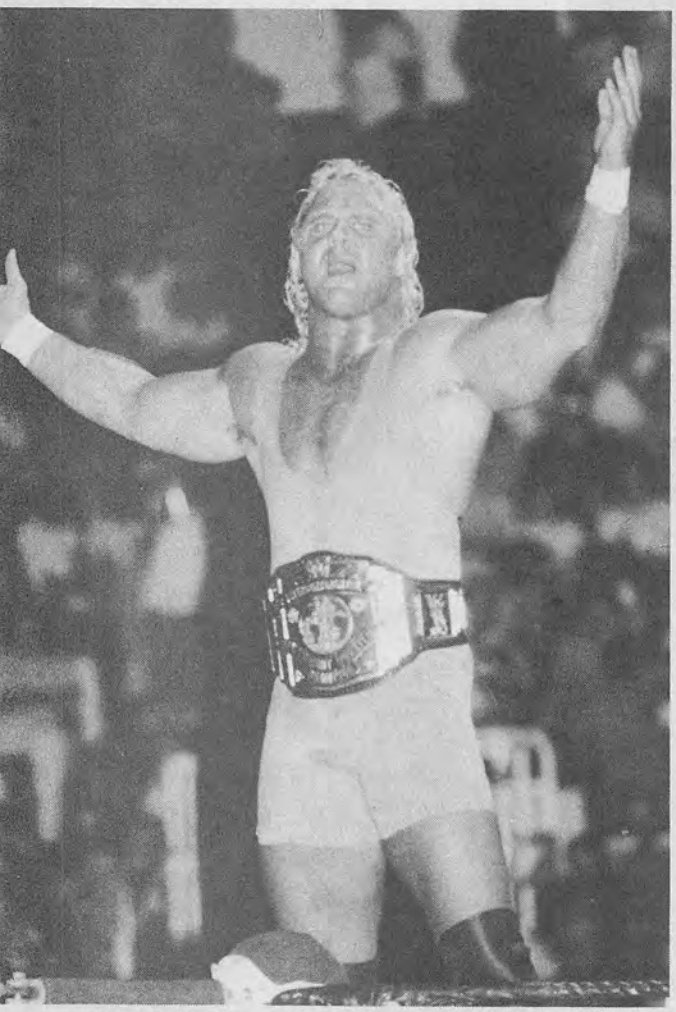
A: That's exactly what I'm talking about. There's nothing there! No color! No nothing! That dweeb Dangerously has done it again! *Oooohhh!* When I get my hands on him I'm gonna . . . I'm gonna . . . oooh, I don't know *what* I'm gonna do, but he'll be sorry, I promise you that.

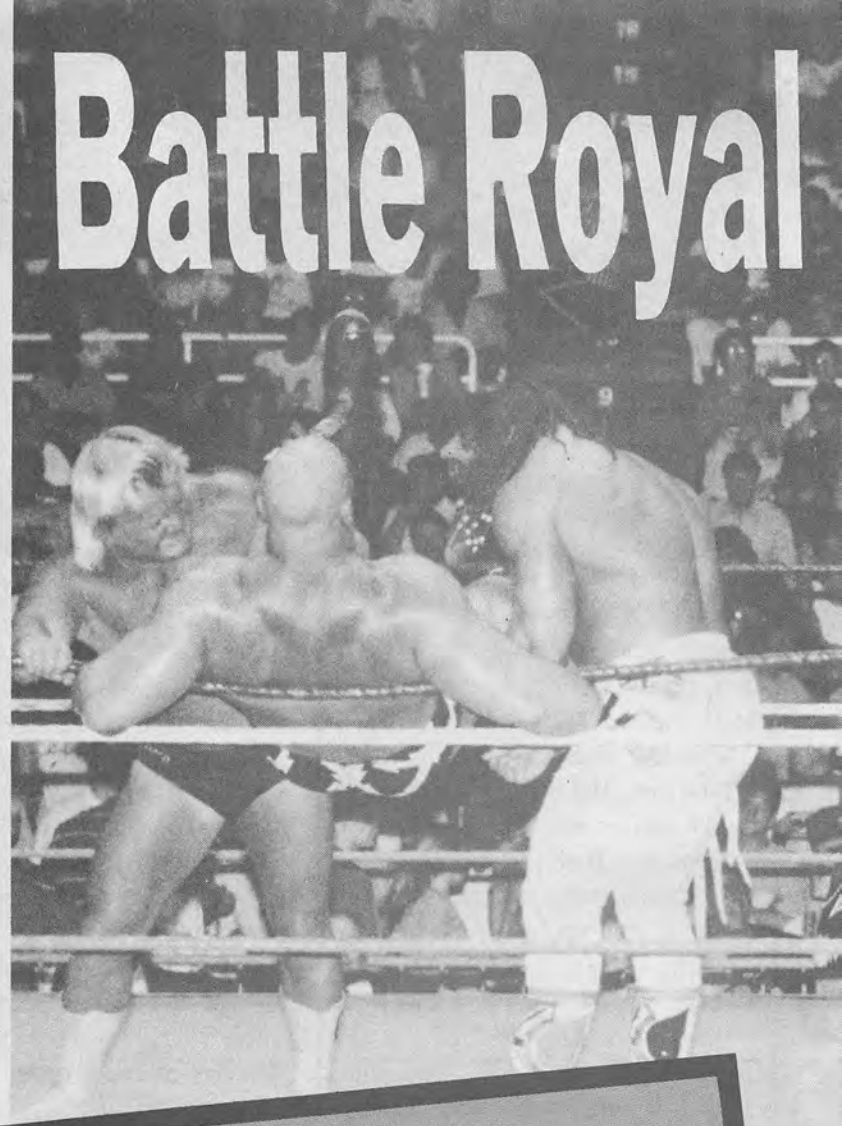
Q: Uh, Missy, thanks for spending this time with me and . . .

A: Where am I gonna find polish at this hour? And it's only two hours to air time! Oooh, that Paul E.—I hate him! □



"When I get my hands on [Paul E] I'm gonna . . . I'm gonna . . ."





Battle Royal

By facing the winner of a battle royal (right), Intercontinental champion Curt Hennig (above) is virtually assured of an easy victory.

THE WWF'S PERFECT SCHEME TO PROTECT CURT HENNIG

Scandal!



The WWF's prize for its battle royal winners lately is a match against Intercontinental champion Curt Hennig. Each night is a potential title shot for every wrestler in the WWF, right? Think again. "Mr. Perfect" is the sole beneficiary of this very imperfect plan!

By Dave Rosenbaum

THE CARD HAD started at least 30 minutes ago, but Curt Hennig was in no hurry. His limousine pulled up in front of the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit and Hennig waited for the chauffeur to open his door. When he did, Hennig stepped out, let out a big yawn, and proceeded slowly to the arena.

He was the picture of elegance, wearing an olive-green Hugo Boss suit and imported black leather shoes from Italy. Solid gold chains adorned his neck. His hair was combed back slickly. Walking to the locker room, Hennig took the time to sign a few autographs and listened for a moment to the crowd cheering the match in progress.

The match, that is, that would decide his future.

For as Hennig took his time and relaxed, 17 wrestlers were in the ring fighting it out in a battle royal to decide who would wrestle "Mr. Perfect" later on the card for the Intercontinental championship.

If Hennig had peeked inside the arena, he would have seen an all-out battle in which every wrestler was expending exhausting effort to avoid elimination. And, most likely, Hennig would have laughed his cocky little head off.

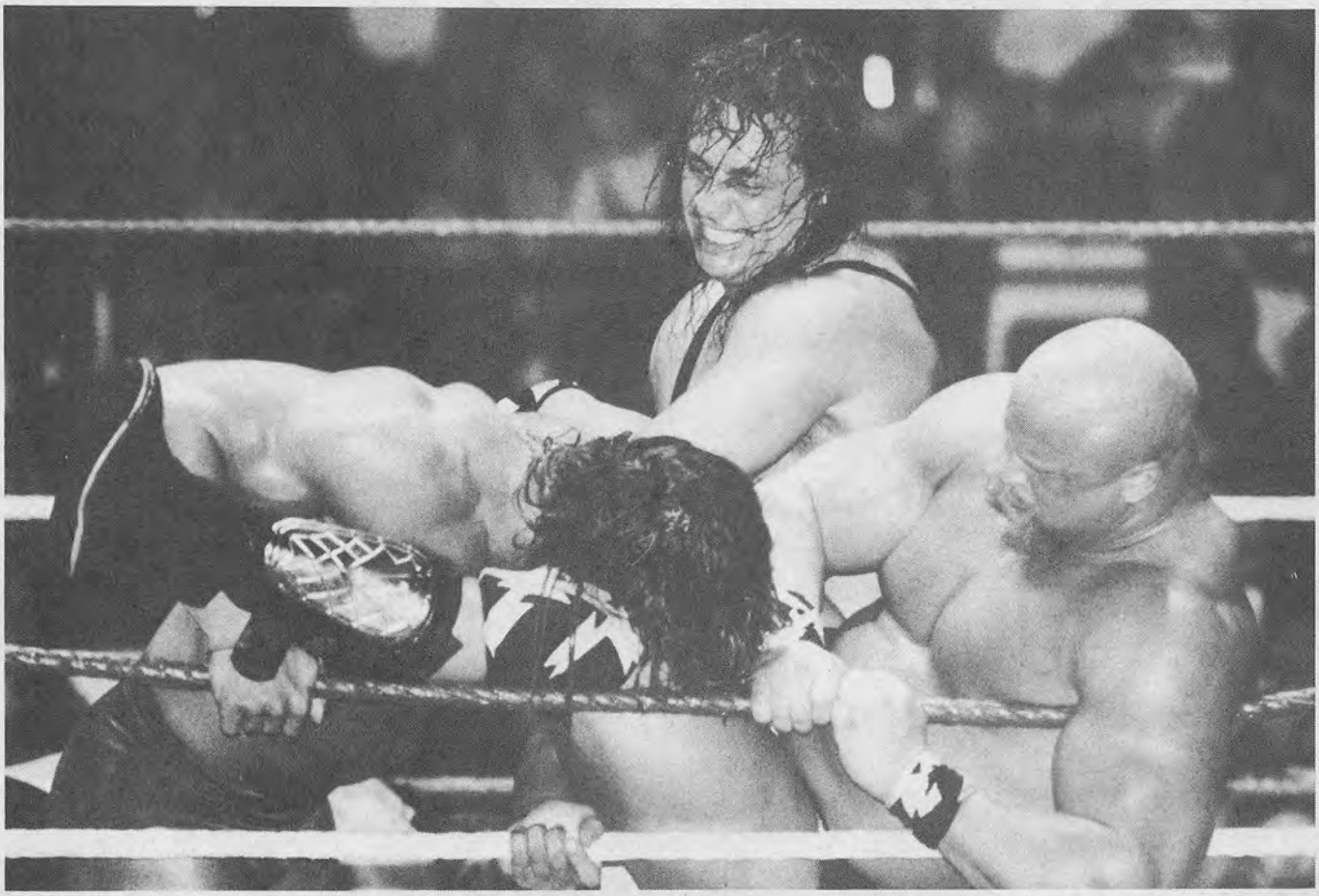
The WWF has unwittingly—or, forbid, wittingly— come up with the perfect plan to make "Mr. Perfect's" Intercontinental title reign long, prosperous, and very relaxing. On the surface, the plan looks intriguing. But scratch slightly below the surface, and the truth comes out: Hennig has it easy.

In early May, the WWF announced a series of battle royals. The winner of each would earn a match against "Mr. Perfect" later on that card. The battle royal, consisting of some of the top wrestlers in the federation, would be the first match on the card. The title match would be the last match on the card.

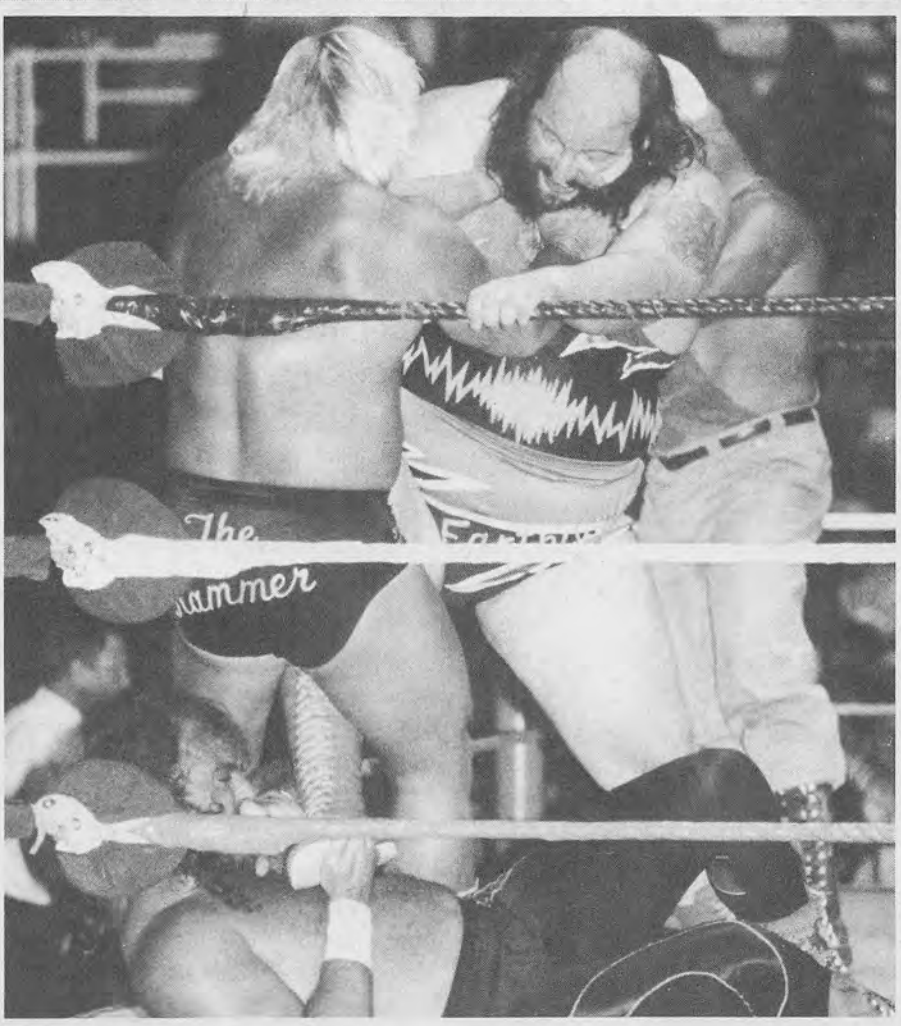
It seemed like the ultimate reward for the battle royal winner, especially if a non-contender like Koko B. Ware, Paul Roma, or Luke Williams won. But one merely had to be at Joe Louis Arena on May 11 to see the flaw in this reasoning.

Kerry Von Erich, the former I-C champ, eliminated The Warlord to win the battle royal. Von Erich was clearly exhausted, emotionally and physically, as he headed back to the dressing room. He looked like a man dearly in need of lots of water, a massage, a good dinner, and a quiet night of sleep.

Instead, he had to prepare for his match against Hennig. He returned to the dressing room and combined his postmatch ritual with prematch preparation. Two hours later, when it was time for the match against Hennig, Von Erich was still exhaust-



The grueling action of a battle royal can exhaust anyone (above and right).



ed. He dragged himself out of the dressing room and to the ring.

Hennig, of course, couldn't have been more ready for the match.

Von Erich put forth a tremendous effort but really didn't have much of a chance. Hennig, despite his antics, is a fine wrestler. Von Erich gained several two-counts on Hennig, but didn't have the strength to get the pin. Hennig easily kicked out every time.

Hennig finally won by countout. The match spilled outside the ring and, after a brawl that took the last ounce of energy out of Von Erich, Hennig returned to the ring, beating the referee's count. Von Erich didn't have the strength to make it back.

The obvious result of this evening was that Von Erich's prize was no prize at all. A wrestler must be perfectly prepared and rested in order to make the best of a title match. But there was a mismatch here: Von Erich clearly wasn't ready and









After surviving a ring filled with opponents (above left), Kerry Von Erich finds himself too spent to wage an offense against Hennig (left and above right).

Hennig certainly was.

Unfortunately, this series of events has been repeated in several arenas across the country. Von Erich consistently proves himself superior in the battle royals (though he is not the only wrestler to have secured title shots in this fashion), but understandably doesn't have enough left to beat Hennig. Hennig, on the other hand, goes another night with his belt intact; he is living the life of a leisurely champion.

Of course, there is no reason to believe that Hennig and the WWF have conspired on this plan. In fact, there is no reason to believe that the WWF *wants* Hennig as champion; it simply came up with what it thought was an interesting match idea.

The WWF's perfect scheme is actually a perfect scheme for Hennig. How long can this go on? How long will the fans accept this situation?

The only way to end this scam is to make it clear to the WWF that this is an unacceptable situation. Write letters! Send petitions! If you don't want Hennig to be a protected champion, voice your opinion!

The frightening alternative would be if title match battle royals were to become standard operating procedure for the WWF. But WWF insiders told *Inside Wrestling* that Von Erich has already objected to this situation. Of course, many of the wrestlers in the battle royal who would never otherwise get a shot at Hennig are perfectly satisfied with the situation. That's another problem: There is by no means a roar of disapproval coming from within the WWF ranks.

Hennig, of course, is perfectly satisfied. The WWF's scheme is better than anything he could have ever devised on his own.

It is his perfect course to a perfectly endless Intercontinental title reign. □

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

ONE O



"Are we together, or do you just wanna throw it all away to be a member of The York Foundation?"
—Robert Gibson

NO HISTORY OF tag team wrestling in the '80s would be complete without mention of The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Between 1985 and 1987, Rick Morton and Robert Gibson enjoyed four WCW World tag team title reigns, an outstanding record that stands up with the finest tag team achievements ever.

And their success in the ring was buttressed by their wild popularity outside it; Morton and Gibson were the sport's ultimate teenybopper idols. In the eyes of their adoring fans, they could do absolutely nothing wrong.

After a brief spell as rulebreakers, Morton and Gibson started off the '90s as popular as they'd ever been and, more importantly, determined to add a fifth World tag title to their collection.

Then tragedy struck. Last September 22, during a bout in Jacksonville, Florida, Gibson severely injured his right knee. The ensuing surgery and therapy has kept him out of action ever since, leaving Morton without his longtime partner.

Morton appeared to have found a replacement, at least temporarily, in Dustin Rhodes. But then a shocking turn of events left fans wondering about a man they had trusted for years.

On April 30 in Gainesville, Georgia, Morton had just won his match when Barry Windham gestured for Morton to follow him back to the dressing room. Morton went. One night later, Morton was in Rhodes' and Bobby Eaton's corner as they wrestled Arn Anderson and Terrence Taylor. During the bout, Morton began speaking with Alexandra York; he left ringside as Rhodes and Eaton were losing the match.

Less than a month later, on May 27 at the Omni in Atlanta, Morton joined Mr. Hughes in a brutal beating of Rhodes after Dustin's disqualification victory over Taylor.

Now it appears as though Morton is a full-fledged rulebreaker, and Gibson, who is poised to make his return, is scratching his head in disbelief. Which makes it the perfect time to get these two men together . . . "One on One."

ROBERT GIBSON:
Ricky, man, what's goin' on? I go down for a few months and you start hangin' out with people like Terrence Taylor. I can't understand it. I mean, we've had this thing going for almost 10 years! Are we together, or do you just wanna throw it all away to be a member of The York Foundation? I need to know, man, this whole thing has me spooked.

RICK MORTON:
I don't have to explain anything to you. While you've been wrapping that knee of yours in Ace bandages, I've been working my

N ONE



"I've wasted almost a year of my life waiting for you to come back, but it's all over now."
—Rick Morton

tail off in WCW trying to make a name for myself. Can I help it if Ms. York has offered me more money than I've ever seen before? Should I turn my back on her just because she manages Taylor? In case you haven't seen a calendar since you've been laid up, let me tell you something: It's 1991. Times have changed, and so have I.

RG: No, I don't buy that "times-have-changed" business. They haven't. Look at all we've been through together. We fought the Koloffs. We fought The Midnight Express. We fought everybody they threw in front of us. What I'm sayin' is that the loyalty we've shown each other has to mean something more than what York can offer you. I'm beggin' you, Ricky, think this thing out.

RM: I *have* thought about it, and my mind's made up. Yeah, we were a great team, Robbie. We made a lot of fans real happy. But from now on, the only guy I want to make happy is myself. You're no help to me anymore, since you're obviously unable to wrestle. I tried teaming with Dustin Rhodes, but he's as dumb as his father. I won the six-man title with Tommy Rich and Junkyard Dog, but I felt like Moe in The Three Stooges—I had to tell 'em what to do all the time. When York approached me with her offer, it was like a breath of fresh air. She's a woman with class and beauty. And most of all, she's *intelligent*—not like the rubes I've been hanging out with lately.

RG: Intelligence comes in a lot of different forms, Rick. In his own way, Dusty Rhodes is the most intelligent man I know. If you think York is smart, that's your problem. But I'm most concerned with what you think of *you*. This isn't like you. You never needed any kind of a manager. Me and you together had our own game plan and we did pretty darn good; four tag titles speak for themselves. Okay, maybe in the short run she'll give you a few good pointers, but look at the future. Look at how quick she unloaded Michael Wall Street when he didn't please her. If you slip in her eyes, she'll do the same to you. Count on it.

RM: I don't have to worry about that, because I don't intend to slip. My first goal is to prove that Dustin is an overrated clod who never would've made it if he wasn't clinging to his daddy's coattails. But after that, I'm looking for a title—a *singles* title. Ms. York's giving me the tools, and I just have to put them to good use. So please, spare me the sermons. I've wasted almost a year of my life waiting for you to come back, but it's all over now. You go your way, I'll go mine. Fair enough?

RG: I have a hard time swallowing all this, but like they say, you made your bed and you have to lie in it. Every single time you go out to that ring, you're gonna see those fans who supported you—*us*—for all those years. Sure, you don't care about fans anymore, right? That's what you say now. But that old Ricky Morton is gonna return. And when he does, I'll be there waiting for him. I hope we never lock up in the ring, 'cause that'll be the saddest day of my life—and *yours*. □

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

the editors of your magazine, I was not at all surprised by Windham's selfish comments.

Windham was a prominent member of The Four Horsemen, and that should be enough of a tip-off about his self-centered ways. Has there ever been a Horseman who *wasn't* selfish? I know about the "all for one" mentality that the Horsemen profess, but it's really a crock. Anyone who joins that vicious rulebreaking clan does it for one reason: personal gain.

Flair and Windham's selfishness is what made the interview so intriguing. When all was said and done, these men showed their true colors—and it wasn't very pretty!

EVA CANSUN
Gnome, AK

HOLD THE MUNCHKINS

Gee, Toto, I don't think we're in WCW anymore! What a curious group of people exist here! There's a Little Richard clone named Johnny B. Badd and a pseudo-rapper named P.N. News (Yo baby, yo baby, yo!). Oh yes, The Wizard and Oz are here, too.

People have certainly changed. Tom Zenk is "Z-Man," Mike Rotundo became Michael Wall Street (and now is in the WWF, where this silliness belongs, as Irwin R. Shyster), and Tracy

(Continued on page 54)



WCW newcomers Oz and The Wizard have not been well-received by many readers, including Richard Evans.

THIS MONTH IN...

THE Wrestler



THE STEINERS take on **STING** & **LEX LUGER**: Find out how their friendships survived the most brutal match of the year



Learn why **THE LEGION OF DOOM** is a WWF disappointment

PLUS . . .

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The Wrestler

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Wrestling 91



After flirting with death, is **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** scarred for life?



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All this—and much more . . .
in the Fall 1991 issue of
Wrestling 91

NOW ON SALE!

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)

Smothers and Steve Armstrong went from being The Southern Boys to The Young Pistols overnight.

Sadly, the days when WCW was a viable alternative to the carnival atmosphere of the WWF are lost somewhere over the rainbow. What's next, hordes of winged monkeys?

RICHARD EVANS
Gulfport, MS

EATON IT UP

Boy, was I happy to see Bobby Eaton beat Arn Anderson and win the WCW TV title at Super Brawl '91! Anderson had been coddling that belt for so long, it was way past ridiculous. Now that Eaton has the belt, it's finally around the waist of a worthy wrestler.

FAITH ELLERTON
Hackensack, NJ

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What a beautiful occurrence it was when "Beautiful" Bobby Eaton took away Arn Anderson's TV title. Anderson is a joke who can hardly wrestle anymore. He still thinks he's hot stuff because of his connection with The Four Horsemen! As far as I'm concerned, Anderson is a nobody. I don't know how he managed to get that TV title in the first place!

ALAN BRESMER
Chicago

EAGLE FAN

"War Eagle" Chris Chavis is a great wrestler and a great guy. He always gives his best in the ring and he always has time for his fans when the match is over.

I even asked Chris for a hug once, and he gave me a big hug. He's tops in my book! Keep your eye on the "War Eagle." He's good enough for any federation, and he's definitely championship material!

BETTY THOMAS
Charlotte, NC

LEFT OUT LUGER

There comes a time when a man has to look out for himself. One of these days, the powers-that-be in WCW are going to force Lex Luger to turn against his friends. Sting had his shot at the World title, so why is Lex being ignored?

Stan Hansen, Dan Spivey, Sid Vicious—Lex took care of them all. He is the U.S. champion and the number-one contender for the World title, so why must he take a back seat to Sting and El Gigante?

I hope that Lex can be patient, even though it must be difficult. He will be champion sooner or later, depending on when he gets the chance he deserves.

LEROY LEROND
Tampa, FL

NASTY ENOUGH!

So The Nasty Boys have invaded the WWF, have they? The Steiners obviously ran these guys right out of WCW, proving to be the tougher of the two teams.

Don't get me wrong, I think the Nastys are pretty tough, too. I always wondered how they would fare against the dangerous Legion of Doom. Well, the Nastys are WWF tag team champions, so that answers my question!

BRUCE D. GRAY
Orlando, FL ☐

U.S. champion Lex Luger hoists WCW World champion Ric Flair in the air for a high slam. Leroy Lerond wants to know why WCW is passing over Luger for World title shots.



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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)



WWF World champion Hulk Hogan dominates his opponents in the ring, but physically he's no bigger than federation head honcho Vince McMahon.

give it their full support.

FINAL OPINION: Why not the Bronx?

* * *

NEWS ITEM: Fantasia, a masked wrestler, is the new third member of The Freebirds.

GUT REACTION: Is Fantasia the first technicolor wrestler?

INFORMED REACTION: The Freebirds' crime wave continues. Somehow, these guys manage to bring in one misfit after another. Michael Hayes, Jim Garvin, "Diamond" Dallas Page, Big Daddy Dink, and now Fantasia.

The scariest part is that Fantasia seems to know how to wrestle. During Super Brawl '91, Fantasia ran to the ring, attacked Tracey Smothers and Steve Armstrong, and delivered a series of spectacular DDTs. Apparently, this guy has been practicing.

Page, the manager of The Freebirds, won't reveal the identity of Fantasia. "That's for me to know and for WCW to find out, chump," Page replied in his typically intelligent fashion.

FINAL OPINION: The Four Horsemen had nothing on The Freebirds.

* * *

NEWS ITEM: Vince McMahon Jr. is physically as big as Hulk Hogan.

GUT REACTION: McMahon dresses worse than Hogan.

INFORMED REACTION: This is the man Fred Blassie used to call a "pencil-necked geek." Of course, Blassie used to call *everyone* a "pencil-necked geek." The fact, quite obviously, is that the description no longer applies to McMahon.

According to one account, McMahon looked at himself in the mirror five years ago and didn't like what he saw. He saw a man who preached physical fitness and had a federation filled with muscular wrestlers, but was, himself, a pencil-necked geek.

So McMahon started following his wrestlers to the gym. That didn't quite work out. Wrestlers and promoters never mix. McMahon, however, is a very rich man, so he built a fully equipped gym in the basement of his home.

The metamorphosis has been incredible. McMahon's arms are huge. His thighs bulge out of his sweat pants. He has a healthy glow and a gigantic chest.

But the final test of McMahon's

physique came on a recent broadcast of *Prime-Time Wrestling* when McMahon came out in his stylish workout outfit and Hogan shortly followed. They stood next to each other. A nation of TV watchers held its collective breath. And McMahon was just as big as the WWF World champion.

Which means Hogan is no longer superhuman. Now he's just like Vince.

FINAL OPINION: McMahon's mind is still that of a pencil-necked geek.

***

NEWS ITEM: Ted DiBiase and Roddy Piper took their war to Anchorage, Alaska.

GUT REACTION: It's cold in Alaska.

INFORMED REACTION: It's cold in Alaska.

FINAL OPINION: It's cold in Alaska. Why force those poor Eskimos to suffer through a horrible feud?

***

NEWS ITEM: Irwin R. Shyster pinned Jimmy Snuka on May 19 in Pittsburgh.

GUT REACTION: Somebody called in an erroneous result.

INFORMED REACTION; It really happened. How the mighty have fallen!

Snuka is obviously at the end of his career. He's out of shape. He's lost his competitive fire. And he lost to a man who wrestles in a shirt, tie, and suspenders!

There have been many great moments in Snuka's career. They will never be forgotten. Perhaps we can one day forget that Snuka lost to a Shyster.

FINAL OPINION: Remember Snuka's dive from the top of the Madison Square Garden steel cage during that 1982 match against Bob Backlund? We often forget that he missed (Backlund rolled out of the way and won the match). But when Snuka loses to the likes of Shyster, we suddenly remember. □

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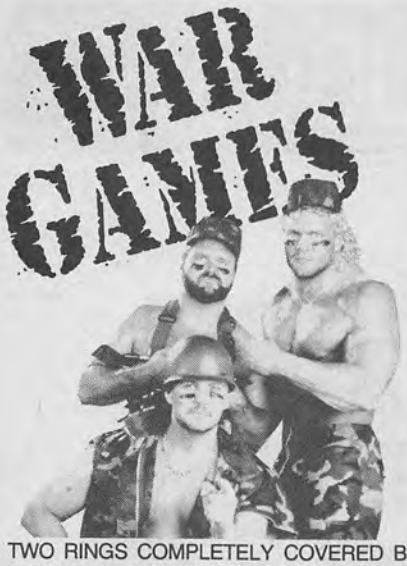


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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)

and foreboding countenance, he combines the impulses of a mass murderer with the precise movements of a surgeon. He is quick to anger, but rarely loses his cool; his arsenal is so deep that there is yet a single wrestler who has been able to match his power and determination.

Vicious' only flaw, and it is one of youth (easily corrected), is his attention span. He loses interest. The talent is so abundant that he can cruise through most of his matches while his mind attacks other problems. Because of this, he is not yet champion of the world, though I consider him to be the world's most dangerous competitor.

I am not alone in this opinion. Vicious' talents have long been coveted by the WWF and Deep Pockets McMahon, who finally captured the big prize. Vicious' last match in WCW was against El Gigante at Super Brawl. I was positive Vicious would use his Super Brawl showdown against the gangly birth defect (on whom so many of WCW's hopes are pinned)

Sid Vicious' only flaw is a lack of concentration, writes Eddie Ellner, who calls Vicious "the world's most dangerous competitor."



to emphasize the foolishness Ted Turner and Company demonstrated by not keeping this man happy with World title shots. By crushing Gigante into so much pampas mulch, Vicious would send a very clear message to all promoters: "Don't dis me again!"

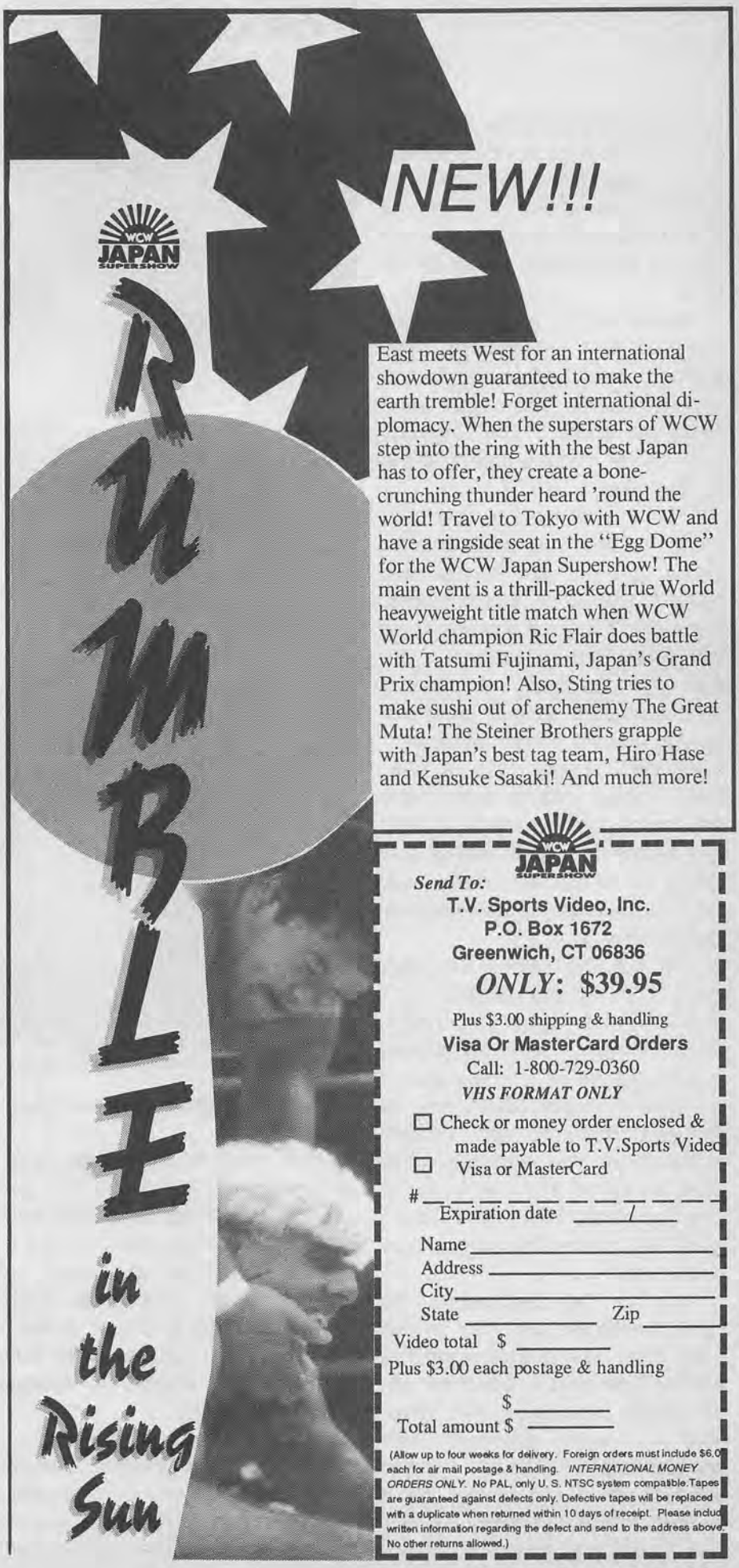
It is the same message hammered home repeatedly by Stan Hansen and, before his untimely death, Bruiser Brody—the two men whose legacy I hope Vicious will prove worthy to inherit.

Instead, Vicious was pinned in just over two minutes while in the clutches of Gigante's much-ballyhooed clawhold. There are two possible explanations for Vicious' showing: 1) El Gigante is *that* good, or, 2) Vicious tanked it. I'll accept a compromise that: 1) Gigante isn't that bad, and, 2) Vicious was indifferent.

But in either case, my judgment stands flawed. So anxious was I to promote the name Sid Vicious into a pantheon of wrestling gods that I didn't use the same caution I had in the past with other "can't miss" hopefuls. Names like Lex Luger, Dan Spivey, and Scott Hall were supposed to rewrite wrestling record books. Time proved them something considerably less than immortal. My jury is still out on Hawk and Animal: It remains to be seen whether The Legion of Doom can regain their killer form of six years ago.

I confronted Vicious in the locker room after the match and asked him point-blank why he even bothered to show up. No response. I called him Kid Vicious, hoping to rile him into conversation. Quiet. I asked: If he didn't feel an obligation to the fans who pay his salary to offer his best effort, doesn't he at least owe it to himself? Nothing.

As Sid Vicious used to sing, "there's no point in asking, you'll get no reply." Let's hope in the future that Sid's actions speak louder than his silence. □



(Continued from page 16)

about pro wrestlers is that they can be nice guys, but their profession forces them to have attitudes. I believe that arrogance is a necessary tool of the trade. We have to be mentally tough all the time.

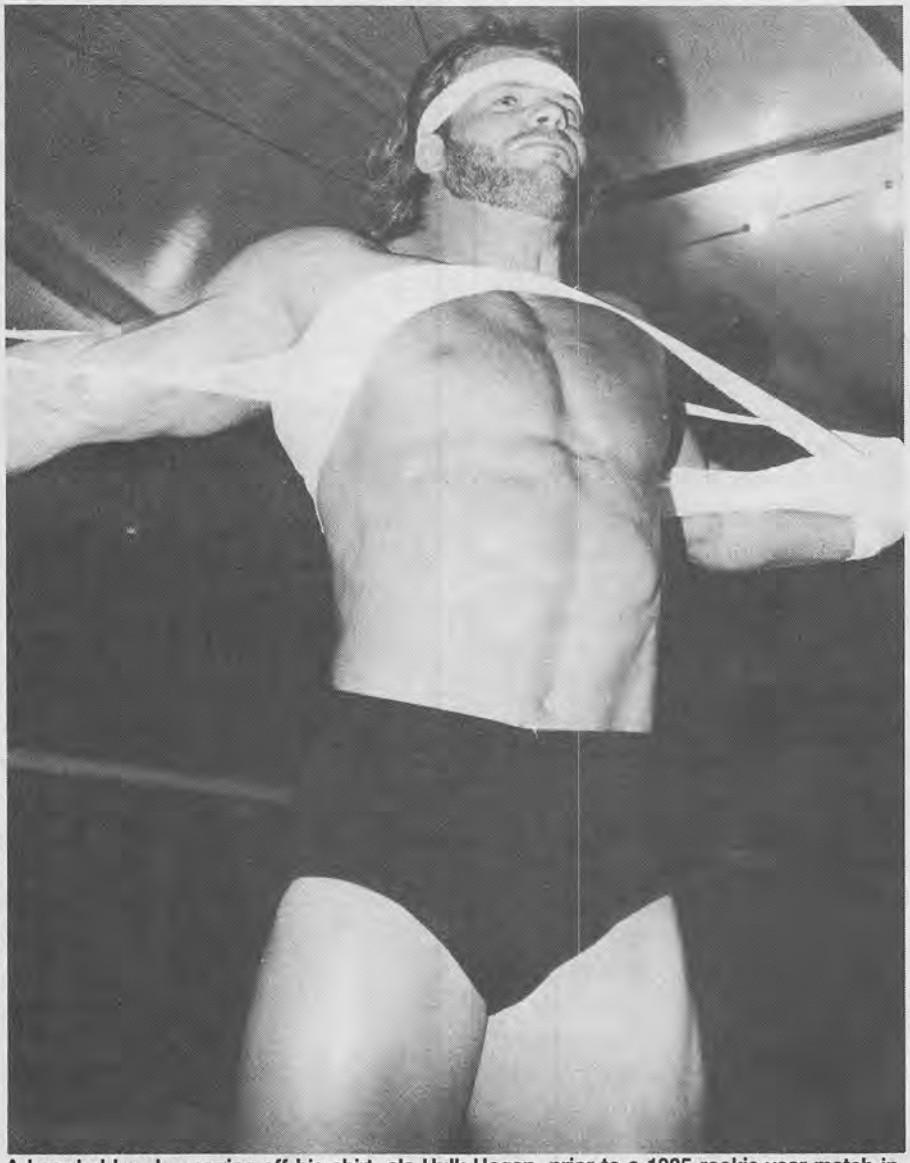
"Unfortunately, it sometimes filters into your personal life. You begin to treat people as you do opponents. You expect the same force you show in the ring you can use on a movie line or at the supermarket.

"That's what I did to you. You know I respect your work and the efforts you put into it. It's hard being a woman in this business. And I didn't make it any easier for you. Don't get me wrong: I am still one arrogant, demanding sonofagun. But as you grow older, you acquire certain wisdoms."

In 1985, Luger was a raw, brash rookie oozing with cocky self-confidence. He wouldn't allow any photos of himself without first taking a 10-minute "pump session" to enlarge his already-swollen muscles.

"I'm still the same," he says today. "I'm not into glamour, but I want to always look my strongest. When someone sees my picture in a magazine or a newspaper, I want them to say, 'Jeez, look at this guy!' That's not ego, it's self-preservation. You want the word-of-mouth to be that Lex Luger is one bad dude. That's why I don't want any wimpy pictures of me circulating."

Amazing the justifications for vanity we come up with as we grow older. As a wet-behind-the-ears college grad, I remember unashamedly showering the wrestlers I was covering with compliments. These never showed up in my stories, but I needed to convert every asset I had to get my stories. If an engaging smile got me an exclusive, so be it.



A bearded Lex Luger rips off his shirt, ala Hulk Hogan, prior to a 1985 rookie-year match in Florida. Back then, Hunter swooned over Luger's physique. Not anymore.

Now, however, I no longer need to smile to get the stories. My reputation is secure and wrestlers treat me as a journalist, not as a woman. Which is why I react so strongly when I encounter chauvinism as I did at Super Brawl.

I later found out that Ellner was the one who slipped my quotes into *PWI Weekly.*

"I knew what you meant, Liz," Ellner said, "but I wanted to teach you a lesson. If you want respect, you can't go around saying you're gonna swoon at the sight of two hunks wrestling. The typical wrestling fan is not as sophisticted as you think. He may not know that you are just joking around. He may write you off as another Missy Hyatt clone."

It's hard to agree with Ellner, but in this case he's right to a certain degree. To succeed at this level, women have to work twice as hard as men—and make no mistakes doing it.

Unless, of course, they aspire to be like Missy Hyatt. Then all they need is the right research staff: a manicurist, a hairdresser, and a dentist. □

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WINTER 1984/Color pinup: Billy Jack Haynes. **Stories include:** Ventura, Adams, Martel, Flair, Reed.

FALL 1985/Color pinup: Steve Keirn & Stan Lane. **Stories include:** Albano & Hogan, DiBiase, Warriors, Garvin.

WINTER 1985/Color pinup: Barry Windham. **Stories include:** Hogan, Zbyszko, Kerry, R&R Express, Steamboat, Thesz.

SPRING 1986/Color pinup: The Road Warriors. **Stories include:** Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinup: Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. **Stories include:** Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

FALL 1986/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

WINTER 1986/Color pinup: Hulk Hogan. **Stories include:** Flair, Freebirds, Hogan, Andre, Watts, Haynes, Fantastics.

SPRING 1987/Color pinup: The Four Horsemen. **Stories include:** Ventura, T.A., Bulldogs, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinup: Road Warriors workout. **Stories include:** Hogan-Andre, Rockers, Koloff, Warriors, Hall-Luger.

FALL 1987/Color pinup: Dark Journey. **Stories include:** Albano, Hogan, T.A., Lane, Hyatt, Hennig, Luger.

WINTER 1987/Color pinup: Jesse Ventura. **Stories include:** Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

SPRING 1988/Color pinup: Elizabeth. **Stories include:** Hennig, Koloff, Savage, Strike Force, Warriors, Andre-Hogan.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinup: Missy Hyatt. **Stories include:** Rock 'n' Roll Express, Hogan, Sting, Luger, Owen Hart, Animal.

FALL 1988/Color pinup: Madusa Miceli. **Stories include:** Savage, Hyatt, Von Erich, Triple Dome, Demolition, Steamboat, Heenan, Lawler.

WINTER 1988/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** DiBiase, Flair, Duggan, Sting, Piper, Luger, Brody.

SPRING 1989/Color pinup: Rick Steamboat. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Lawler, Blazer, Sting, Ultimate-Hogan, Jake-Andre, Powers of Pain.

SUMMER 1989/Color pinup: Sting & Lex Luger. **Stories include:** Hogan, Von Erich, Sting & Ultimate, Warriors, Nikita, Luger.

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STEVE RAY

(Continued from page 28)

sequences, Ray climbed to the top turnbuckle and, mustering up all his bravery, leaped high in the air and landed on Williams' chest, knocking the rulebreaker to the floor. Although the blow didn't faze Williams, it did change the course of the match—and Williams' perception of his game foe.

Williams and Ray got into a brawl at ringside, but Ray managed to take every hard blow Williams could dish out, including having his back rammed into the ringpost. When he returned to the ring, Ray shook off his pain and attempted a flying tackle, but was caught in midair by Williams.



Ray unloads on Williams with a flying bodypress off the top turnbuckle. Although he lost the bout, Ray was pleased because the fans who once booed him now cheered him out of respect.

Ray had put up such a hard fight that Williams realized he needed something extra to do away with his opponent. Williams put Ray in position for an "Oklahoma stampede" powerslam. "Dr. Death" rammed Ray's back into the turnbuckles before slamming him to

the mat. Upon impact, Ray and Williams butted heads, breaking Ray's nose and beginning a steady flow of blood.

The pin was a mere formality, but what happened afterward was a real surprise. Ray slowly walked toward Williams and offered his hand. Williams shocked the crowd by accepting the handshake.

"I read you all wrong," said Williams to his beaten foe. "That was a hell of a match. You are one tough kid."



As Ray stepped through the ropes, something *else* remarkable happened: Fans from all four corners of the arena gave the youngster a standing ovation. He had lost the match, but he had gained the respect of not only Williams, but of every fan who viewed the titantic struggle.

"Great match," said Beach as he consoled his partner in the locker room. "I'm sorry you lost, pal."

"I'm not," responded Ray. "Did you hear those fans? I didn't hear any booing this time. Believe me, I never want to hear it again."

With more displays of courage like this one, Ray probably never will. □

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

1—RIC FLAIR
(2) WCW World champion

2—HULK HOGAN
(1) WWF World champion

3—LEX LUGER
(3) WCW U.S. champion

4—CURT HENNIG
(5) WWF I-C champion

5—STING
(6) No. 2 contender: WCW title

6—NIKITA KOLOFF
(7) No. 1 contender: U.S. title

7—BOBBY EATON
(14) WCW TV champion

8—DAVEY BOY SMITH
(-) No. 1 contender: I-C title

9—SGT. SLAUGHTER
(8) No. 2 contender: WWF title

10—ERIC EMBRY
(-) USWA Southern champion

11—JERRY LAWLER
(9) USWA champion

12—THE ULTIMATE WARRIO
(11) No. 3 contender: WWF title

13—STEVE WILLIAMS
(-) No. 1 contender: UWF TV title

14—STEVE DOLL
(13) PNW champion

15—TONY ATLAS
(-) ICW champion

WCW

1—RIC FLAIR
(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN

2—LEX LUGER
(2) 268, Chicago, IL

3—STING
(4) 260, Venice Beach, CA

4—NIKITA KOLOFF
(5) 275, Lithuania

5—BOBBY EATON
(9) 233, Huntsville, AL

6—RON SIMMONS
(7) 260, Perry, GA

7—DUSTIN RHODES
(-) 254, Austin, TX

8—EL GIGANTE
(6) 435, Argentina

9—BRIAN PILLMAN
(-) 226, Cincinnati, OH

10—BARRY WINDHAM
(13) 263, Sweetwater, TX

11—TERRENCE TAYLOR
(10) 225, Vero Beach, FL

12—STAN HANSEN
(-) 322, Borger, TX

13—DAN SPIVEY
(-) 300, Tampa, FL

14—ONE MAN GANG
(14) 468, Chicago, IL

15—RICK MORTON
(-) 228, Memphis, TN

WWF

1—HULK HOGAN
(1) 302, Venice Beach, CA

2—CURT HENNIG
(2) 235, Minneapolis, MN

3—SGT. SLAUGHTER
(3) 310, Parris Island, SC

4—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
(4) 280, Queens, NY

5—DAVEY BOY SMITH
(7) 245, Leeds, England

6—THE UNDERTAKER
(5) 320, Dallas, TX

7—JAKE ROBERTS
(12) 246, Stone Mountain, GA

8—EARTHQUAKE
(11) 462, Surrey, BC

9—THE MOUNTIE
(-) 232, Montreal, Quebec

10—IRWIN R. SHYSTER
(9) 245, Syracuse, NY

11—TED DiBIASE
(13) 247, Omaha, NB

12—BIG BOSSMAN
(8) 310, Cobb County, GA

13—KERRY VON ERICH
(-) 260, Denton, TX

14—RODDY PIPER
(-) 231, Glasgow, Scotland

15—HACKSAW DUGGAN
(10) 280, Glens Falls, NY

MOST POPULAR

1—HULK HOGAN
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular

2—LEX LUGER
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular

3—STING
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular

4—SCOTT STEINER
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular

5—EL GIGANTE
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular

6—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular

7—RICK STEINER
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular

8—JERRY LAWLER
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular

9—DAVEY BOY SMITH
Last month: unrated

10—BOBBY EATON
Last month: unrated

11—RODDY PIPER
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

12—RON SIMMONS
Last month: No. 12 Most Popula

13—JEFF JARRETT
Last month: No. 14 Most Popula

14—EDDIE GILBERT
Last month: No. 13 Most Popula

15—SID VICIOUS
Last month: unrated

MOST HATED

1—NIKITA KOLOFF
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated

2—THE UNDERTAKER
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated

3—EARTHQUAKE
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated

4—RIC FLAIR
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated

5—SGT. SLAUGHTER
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated

6—ERIC EMBRY
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated

7—CURT HENNIG
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated

8—ARN ANDERSON
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated

9—BARRY WINDHAM
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated

10—IRWIN R. SHYSTER
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated

11—TED DiBIASE
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated

12—ONE MAN GANG
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated

13—TOM PRICHARD
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated

14—TERRENCE TAYLOR
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated

15—RICK MORTON
Last month: unrated

TAG TEAMS

1—RICK & SCOTT STEINER
(1) WCW World tag team champions

2—THE NASTY BOYS
(2) WWF World tag team champions

3—THE LEGION OF DOOM
(3) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title

4—THE FREEBIRDS
(5) WCW U.S. tag team champions

5—THE ROCKERS
(6) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title

6—ROBERT FULLER & JEFF JARRETT
(-) USWA tag team champions

7—THE YOUNG PISTOLS
(4) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title

8—THE BUSHWHACKERS
(9) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title

9—DAN SPIVEY & ANGEL OF DEATH
(-) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag title

10—THE BRUISE BROTHERS
(8) Pacific Northwest tag team champions

11—POWER & GLORY
(14) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title

12—THE GEORGIA GUERRILAS
(-) IWCCW tag team champions

13—THE ORIENT EXPRESS
(12) No. 5 contenders: WWF tag title

14—FABIAN & CHRIS WALKER
(-) Georgia All-Star tag team champons

15—STEVE RAY & SUNNY BEACH
(-) No. 1 in UWF

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended May 31, 1991

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS
(April 20, 1991; from Dynamite Kid & Johnny Smith; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI
(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & DAN SPIVEY
(April 18, 1991; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: TAKAKO INOUE
(April 29, 1991; from Kyoko Inoue; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO
(April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: AKIRA HOKUTO
(April 29, 1991; from Suzuka Minami; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: AJA KONG & BISON KIMURA
(April 4, 1991; over Yumiko Hotta & Akira Hokuto for vacant title; Sendai, Japan)

CANADIAN NATIONAL WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: RON RITCHIE
(December 14, 1990; from Jerry Morrow; Calgary, Alberta)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER
(December 22, 1990; tournament final over Rambo; Bremen, Germany)

GEORGIA ALL-STAR CHAMPION: JOEL DEATON
(April 21, 1991; from Steve Lawler; Canton, GA)

ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS
(April 19, 1991; from Vic Steamboat; S. China, ME)

IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ
(December 5, 1990; tournament final over Cousin Luke; Washington Township, NJ)

IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SONNY BEACH & THE TERMINATOR
(August 27, 1990; from The Motor City Madmen; Atlantic City, NJ)

IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE
(October 5, 1990; tournament final over Cactus Jack; Girard, OH)

IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI
(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)

IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE GEORGIA GUERRILAS
(April 19, 1991; from the Madison Brothers; South China, ME)

IWCCW WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH
(by official's decision)

IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(March 4, 1991; from Big Van Vader; Hiroshima, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER
(March 21, 1991; from Hiroshi Hase & Kensuke Sasaki; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NORIO HONAGA
(April 29, 1991; from Jushin Riger; Tokyo, Japan)

LPWA CHAMPION: LADY X
(January 31, 1991; from Susan Sexton; Laughlin, NV)

LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUDY MARTIN & LELANI KAI
(February 28, 1991; from Misty Blue Simmes & Heidi Lee Morgan; Laughlin, NV)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: STEVE DOLL
(November 10, 1990; from The Grappler; Portland, OR)

* **PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BRUISE BROTHERS**
(May 3, 1991; tournament final over Rex King & Steve Doll; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TV CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Scotty the Body)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & DAN SPIVEY
(April 18, 1991; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Tokyo, Japan)

* **PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: CHARLIE NORRIS**
(May 11, 1991; from The Golden Idol (substituting for Terminator Riggs); Shakopee, MN)

SOUTH ATLANTIC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VINCE TORELLI
(February 7, 1991; tournament final over Chris Chavis; Nassau, Bahamas)

SOUTH ATLANTIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOBBY & JACKIE FULTON
(December 29, 1990; from The Pit Bulldogs; Greenville, SC)

TEXAS ALL-PRO HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TUGBOAT TAYLOR
(January 18, 1991; from Tiger Conway Jr.; Conroe, TX)

TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: AL PEREZ
(February 21, 1991; from Matt Borne; Dallas, TX)

TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHAUN SIMPSON
(February 10, 1991; by forfeit from Eric Embry; Dallas, TX)

TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION TEXAS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH
(February 3, 1991; tournament match over Angel of Death; Dallas, TX)

TRI-STATE WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: D.C. DRAKE
(September 15, 1990; tournament final over Rockin' Rebel; Philadelphia, PA)

USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER
(March 11, 1991; from Terry Funk; Memphis, TN)

* **USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY**
(May 20, 1991; over Bill Dundee for held-up title; Memphis, TN)

* **USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JEFF JARRETT & ROBERT FULLER**
(May 13, 1991; from The Texas Hangmen; Memphis, TN)

USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY
(February 15, 1991; from Bill Dundee; Dallas, TX)

UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL CANEK
(December 9, 1990; from Big Van Vader; Mexico City, Mexico)

UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAZO DE ORO & BRAZO DE PLATA
(March 10, 1991; tournament final over Gran Hamada & Perro Aguayo; Tokyo, Japan)

* **WCW TV CHAMPION: BOBBY EATON**
(May 19, 1991; from Arn Anderson; St. Petersburg, FL)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER
(December 16, 1990; from Stan Hansen; St. Louis, MO)

* **WCW U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE FREEBIRDS**
(May 19, 1991; tournament final over The Young Pistols; St. Petersburg, FL)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR
(January 11, 1991; from Sting; East Rutherford, NJ)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER
(March 9, 1991; from The Freebirds; Montgomery, AL)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: SUPER MEDIC III
(April 20, 1991; from Scott Hall; Aguadilla, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: HURRICANE CASTILLO JR. & MIGUEL PEREZ JR.
(March 16, 1991; from Galan Mendoza & Rick Valentine; Carolina, Puerto Rico)

* **WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRAD ANDERSON**
(May 11, 1991; from Ricky Santana; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Manny Fernandez)

* **WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: EL GRAN MENDOZA & BILLY TRAVIS**
(May 22, 1991; from Invader I & El Bronco I; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON
(February 2, 1991; for held-up title over Greg Valentine; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

* **WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE**
(May 11, 1991; from Monster Ripper; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico)

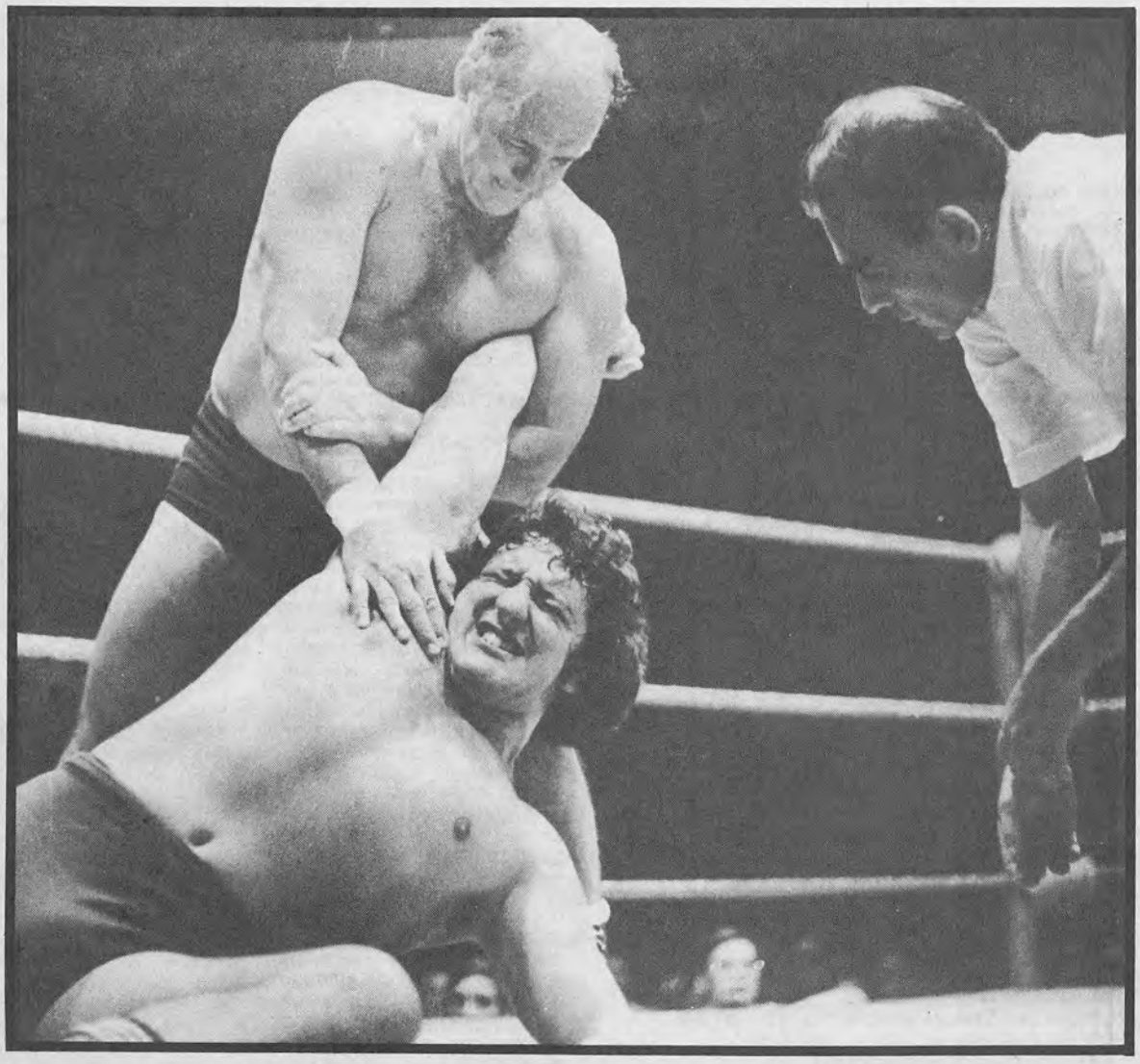
WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CURT HENNIG
(November 19, 1990; from Kerry Von Erich; Rochester, NY)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN
(March 24, 1991; from Sgt. Slaughter; Los Angeles, CA)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NASTY BOYS
(March 24, 1991; from Bret Hart & Jim Neidhart; Los Angeles, CA)

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This Month In Wrestling History

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July 1974

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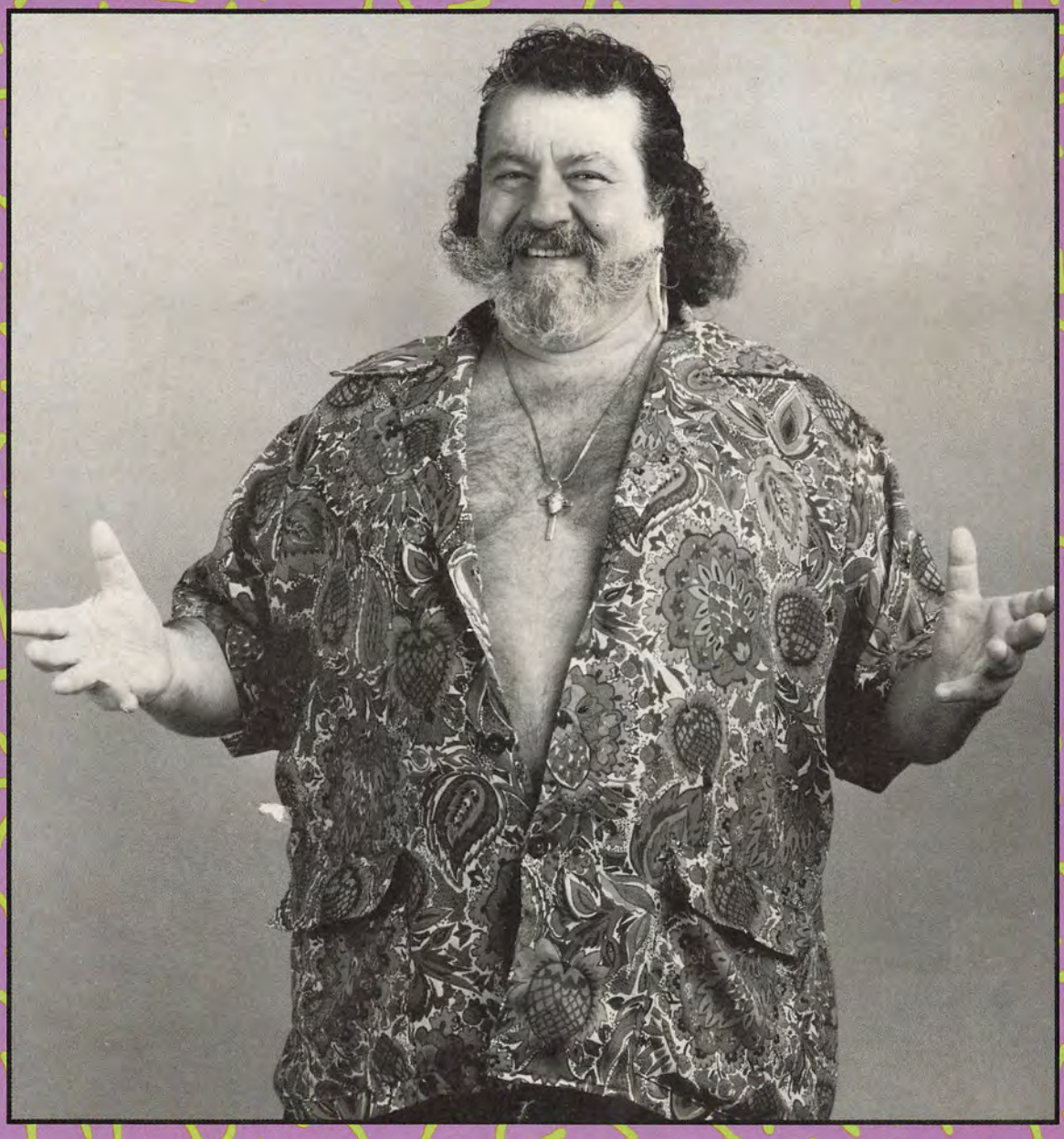
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